



17 December 2025

Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
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Delivered via submission portal

Dear Parliamentary Standing Committee Members,

Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Redevelopment Project, Townsville, Queensland

The Great Barrier Reef Aquarium has a vital role in educating the global community about the ecological importance of the Great Barrier Reef and Australia's conservation efforts. The Aquarium is a key place for our local community to visit and continue their connection with the reef, while also being a major contributor to the North Queensland economy through tourism attraction, education and hospitality.

In August 2024, Townsville City Council (Council) resolved to support reallocation of \$100 million in funding previously committed to the Townsville Concert Hall proposal to the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium. Council did not make this decision lightly, however recognition of the significant role the facility provides our community was of utmost importance.

Council and our tourism and education sector, including James Cook University, our schools, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, Townsville Enterprise, the Port of Townsville, and our community more broadly are united in wanting to see the project start and be delivered in a timeline that reflects both community aspirations and the needs of invested stakeholders.

ReefHQ was a key contributor to the Townsville economy, providing tourists and locals with a direct connection to the Great Barrier Reef. Prior to its closure, the facility was attracting over 100,000 visitors a year. The long-term absence of this facility is significantly impacting city activation, the local tourism industry and hospitality jobs.

Our community is frequently enquiring with Council as to when the aquarium will be reopened as it forms a strong cultural identify and provided an immersive and educational space for families to frequently visit.

The Council is committed to working with all levels of government and community to support the rapid progression of the rebuilding and opening of this iconic experience in Townsville.

I am available to discuss in more detail, please contact my office on [REDACTED] or via email [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Cr Nick Dametto
Mayor of Townsville