

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Committee, Public Works \(REPS\)](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Works Committee | Public Hearing for Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Redevelopment Project
Date: Wednesday, 11 March 2026 4:45:40 PM

Good afternoon,

On 27 February 2026, a public hearing was held by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority—Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Redevelopment project.

During the Public Hearing there was a question taken on notice by Mr Joe McCabe, CEO of Townsville City Council regarding approvals for the project.

Please see the following information in response to the question raised.

The following approvals are required, or potentially required:

Approval Type	Assessment Manager	Requirement Status	Details / Typical Triggers
Development Approval	Townsville City Council	Required	Assessed under the Waterfront PDA Development Scheme as permissible development, equivalent to code assessment (no public notification).
Building Approval	Private Building Certifier	Required	Needed for all building works, including structural, fire, hydraulic, and accessibility compliance.
Infrastructure & Operational Approvals	Various	Potentially Required	- Water & sewer connection (Townsville Water); - Trade waste permit (Townsville Water); - Road opening permit (Council, if trenching required); - Hazardous chemical notifications (WHSQ if thresholds exceeded).
Environmentally Relevant Activities (ERAs)	DESI	Potentially Required	Triggers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Off-site discharge of saline/treated water;● Regulated waste;● Chemical storage/use above thresholds;● Aquaculture-like systems.
Tidal Works Approval	Townsville City Council	Potentially Required	Only if in-water structures, intake pipes, or below high water mark works are proposed.

Kind Regards,

Rebecca Holthuisen
Organisational Performance Coordinator
Office of the CEO

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OUR VISION - A globally connected community driven by lifestyle and nature *OUR PURPOSE - Grow Townsville*

Townsville City Council acknowledges the Wulgurukaba of Gurambilbarra and Yunbenun, Bindal, Gugu Badhun and Nywaigi as the Traditional Owners of this land. We pay our respects to their cultures, their ancestors and their Elders, past, present, and all future generations.



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