



- ♦ The approved development and environmental management plans for the Port Of Airlie provide for Coconut Drive to be widened to approximately twice its existing width.
- ♦ The new road also will be raised to a height of approximately one metre above the existing alignment to raise it above the known flood level.
- ♦ These works, which also include the relocation of overhead powerlines to a dedicated underground trench, necessitate the removal of the existing coconut trees which the Environmental Protection Agency and the Whitsunday Shire Council both have determined to be an undesirable species.
- ♦ Once the roadway and associated works for the Port Of Airlie development have been completed, the new streetscape will feature plantings of the native equivalent of the coconut palm - the Alexandra palm (*Archontophoenix alexandrae*).
- ♦ The existing palms were planted along the foreshore from coconuts sourced from neighboring islands.
- ♦ The coconut palms on these islands were planted in the late 19th Century by the Queensland Government, to be a source of sustenance for shipwrecked sailors.
- ♦ The coconut palms currently along the foreshore at Boat Haven (Muddy Bay) were planted during the 1950's and 1960's by pioneers of Airlie Beach including Mr Mitch Clarke and his father, Mr Hugh Clarke.
- ♦ Mr Hugh Clarke, who supports the removal of the existing coconuts which he and his father planted, is pictured here examining plans for the new roadway with the Chairman of the CRG for the Port Of Airlie, environmental scientist Dr Hugh Lavery.
- ♦ The developers have advised they will seek to relocate the healthier palm trees currently on Coconut Drive, to property which they hold at Abel Point.
- ♦ The other palms will be mulched.



CRG PORT OF AIRLIE - FAST FACTS

WIDENING OF COCONUT DRIVE AND REMOVAL OF EXISTING PALMS