



PORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – BUNBURY
WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2026

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting opened: 5:03pm.

1. Welcome and apologies

Present:	Amanda Lovitt JP Bob Spence Graham Winter (PCCC Deputy Chair) Kate Baker Paul D’Vorak Paul MacGillivray (PCCC Chair) Todd Brown	Robyn Fenech (Director) Keith Wilks (CEO) Marty Stafford (Interim GMSW) Carol McKenzie (Secretary)
Apologies:	Denholm Barrett-Lennard Janine Mitenko Tresslyn Smith	Alan Monaghan (Corp. Affairs) Shannon Beal (Comms)

2. Declarations of interest

Amanda Lovitt declared her role as Chair of the Greenbushes Discovery Centre.
Kate Baker declared employment with Laminex (noting Hexion joint venture).

3. Introduction of new members

The Chair welcomed all the new members:

- Bob Spence – retired engineer; experience in shipbuilding, regional development, and education sectors.
- Amanda Lovitt – Chair Greenbushes Discovery Centre; former Harvey Shire Councillor; community and heritage background; JP.
- Kate Baker – mechanical engineer; National Engineering and Maintenance Leader (Laminex); resources sector background.

4. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 11 February 2026 were confirmed as a true and correct record, moved by Amanda Lovitt and seconded by Todd Brown.

5. Action Items from previous minutes

Action items remain open and carried forward.

6. Corporate update

The CEO provided an update on organizational performance, operating environment, and key activities.

- The CEO introduced Marty Stafford, who is the Southern Ports Maintenance Manager across all three ports and has stepped into the role of Interim General Manager – South West during the organisation’s recruitment process for the substantive position. Allan Bowden has returned to his role as Project Delivery Manager.

The position titles have been updated from Regional Manager to General Manager – South West, General Manager – Great Southern, and General Manager – Goldfields-Esperance to align with the State Government regional structure.

There are currently two positions being advertised: General Manager – South West and Chief Operating Officer. Interim internal appointments have been made to fill these roles until the permanent positions are finalised.

- The State Budget was announced last Thursday, with the State Government allocating additional funding \$55 million to Western Australian ports. Port Hedland received the majority allocation of \$50 million, with the remaining funding directed to Bunbury. These funds will support the Bunbury Port Optimisation Plan (BPOP).

The CEO also noted that, as a Government Trading Enterprise (GTE), Southern Ports’ budget forms part of the broader State Budget.

- The organisation is currently managing a significant supply chain disruption arising from the conflict in the Middle East, which is impacting fuel and fertiliser supply chains. Ports play a critical role in responding to this situation, with Esperance typically handling approximately four hundred thousand tonnes of fuel per year.

Fertiliser suppliers are working to stabilise supply levels, with sufficient product currently being imported to support ongoing agricultural planting activities. The State Government continues to monitor the situation and assess potential impacts of any extended shortages.

Current fuel stocks held across Southern Ports are expected to support continued operation.

- Alumina supply chains have been significantly impacted by the conflict in the Middle East, with disruptions affecting aluminum production in the United Arab Emirates. As a result, alumina companies are redirecting shipments to alternative destinations and new customers.

While there has been a small downturn in alumina volumes through Bunbury Port, this has been offset by a record grain season.

- The Albany Bicentennial Event was held in mid-April, celebrating the 200-year milestone of Western Australia’s first port. The weekend commenced with a Stakeholder Function on the Friday evening, featuring the Minister for Ports, Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, as the keynote speaker.

The following day, Albany PortFest was held, showcasing a range of attractions including a giant interactive whale marionette, sand sculptures, live music, food vans, and more. A major highlight was the opportunity for the public to tour the Royal Australian Navy vessel HMAS Warramunga, which visited Albany exclusively for the event. The celebration was a resounding success, with more than 4,500 members of the public attending.

7. Port update

The Interim General Manager – South West provided an update on operations and trade performance for the quarter.

- Total trade for the period January to March 2026 was 4.1 million tonnes, compared with 4.2 million tonnes for the same period last year. This slight decrease has primarily been driven by reduced alumina volumes.

The organisation is forecasting Bunbury's total annual throughput of approximately 17 million tonnes by the end of the financial year, consistent with both last year's result and the outlook for FY26/27.

- Demolition of the Outer Harbour Service Jetty has commenced, beginning with the removal of the concrete top cap. A new fishing platform will be provided by Transforming Bunbury Waterfront.
- Construction of the new Pilot Boat Jetty in the Wandoo Basin is progressing well. The piles have been installed, the concrete abutment and car park civil works have been completed, and fabrication of the jetty and gangway is currently underway.
- Stabilization works on the Homestead Outbuilding are currently underway. The black tarpaulin has been removed and replaced with plywood sheeting to weatherproof the exterior walls. Roof tarping has also been installed and securely anchored in preparation for the upcoming winter rains.

The chimney, which had become unstable and posed a risk of internal collapse and potential structural damage, has been carefully dismantled brick by brick, with materials stored securely for future use.

A tender for further restoration works on the outbuildings has been released to relevant heritage contractors. The works will be packaged as a single contract comprising three scopes: roof restoration, wall reinstatement, and repairs to glazing and other deteriorated areas. The Heritage Council has been consulted on the scope.

A committee member raised concerns regarding potential termite damage; however, it was confirmed that this has already been addressed. Other considerations include an overhanging tree and its potential impact on the structure, as well as plans in place to manage stormwater drainage away from the building.

- The annual autumn dredging campaign was undertaken between 12 February 2026 and 19 March 2026. A total of 391 tonnes of wrack was removed, inspected for marine life, and subsequently used for spreading on farmland.

In addition, 79,502 metric tonnes of dredge spoil were relocated to the approved spoil ground. All material removed remained well within the limits of the organization's environmental permit.

The next dredging campaign is scheduled to take place around November 2026.

- Southern Ports continues to develop and analyse data for the Berth 8 Optimisation Plan. Through this work, a number of improvement opportunities have been identified, which will be prioritised and addressed according to operational importance.

The organisation is also working closely with customers on vessel scheduling to improve berth efficiency. In addition, consideration is being given to optimal shed allocation for customers, and load rates have been tested to enhance overall loading performance.

8. Corporate Affairs update

The CEO provided an update on recent engagement and communications activities.

- In partnership with the City of Bunbury, Southern Ports recently hosted the Director of

Cultural and International Affairs and the International Affairs Officer from its sister city, Setagaya.

- Southern Ports is also partnering with Marine Rescue Bunbury to deliver a life-size sculpture of Marley, which will be installed within the Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront precinct.
- The CEO thanked all stakeholders who completed the Stakeholder Survey and noted that this is the final week for submissions.
- The Community Investment Program continues to receive strong community support, with thirty-seven applications received and seventeen recipients awarded funding during the last quarter. A total of \$55,097 was distributed across the region. Dates for the FY27 program will be announced in May 2026.
- The organisation has updated its corporate giving program to support five selected causes. One of these is National Road Safety Week, which runs from 17 to 24 May 2026.

With approximately 50% of product moving through the port by road, road safety remains a critical focus for the organisation and the wider industry.

9. Community feedback.

Due to the volume of applications and the time required to review them, the Community Investment Program will be updated to improve efficiency. The organisation has invested in new software that will enable applicants to submit applications online soon.

10. Any other business

The Committee noted with sadness the passing of Tresslyn Smith's husband, David Smith. David was a well-known Western Australian politician and local government leader. He served as the Member for Mitchell in the WA Legislative Assembly from 1983 to 1996, during which time he also held a number of ministerial portfolios. He later served as Mayor of the City of Bunbury from 2005 to 2013. The Committee extends its sincere condolences to Tresslyn and her family.

The Chamber of Commerce adopts a regional partnership approach, working to connect local industry with universities to support skills development, research opportunities, and workforce capability building. It was suggested that the university may be able to undertake a project focused on the Berth 8 Optimisation Plan. It was also noted that ECU Bunbury will be offering Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering courses next year.

A suggestion was made to provide ship officers with the opportunity to connect and attend evening business networking events hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

The Chair noted the suggestions from the previous minutes regarding the introduction of a speaker program for future meetings. It was suggested that a guest speaker could present for approximately 15 minutes at the start of each meeting, providing a valuable opportunity to learn more about the industries associated with the port. Members were encouraged to put forward any suggestions for speakers.

The Chair also asked whether it would be possible for the Committee to undertake a port tour and a ride on the pilot boat.

A member of the Committee drew attention to the situation affecting seafarers stranded on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. Current reports indicate that approximately 50,000 seafarers are impacted, with some vessels experiencing shortages of food and water, particularly where onboard desalination systems are limited while

vessels are stationary.

Supply vessels are also facing significant challenges in safely delivering provisions, contributing to a highly difficult and stressful situation for those at sea.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed: 5:55 pm

Next meeting: 5:00pm, Wednesday 12 August 2026.

ACTIONS

ITEM NO	ACTION	DATE AROSE	ACTION BY	STATUS
9	Port Tour and Pilot Boat ride to be organised for Committee Members	13/05/2026	C McKenzie	
9	Organise speakers from the industry to present to the Committee	13/05/2026	M Stafford	
7	Provide status of the development application for adjoining (former margarine factory) site.	11/02/2026	A Bowden	
6	Consider community communications regarding land management and fire risk leading into next summer.	11/02/2026	A Monaghan	
6	Explore options for further vegetation management (e.g. hay cutting/slashing), including any opportunities for local farmers.	11/02/2026	A Bowden	
7	One page information summary to be prepared for the Committee	12/11/2025	A Monaghan	To be included in the updated PCCC member pack currently in development.
10.1	Updated Charter to be sent to the Committee	07/08/2024	C McKenzie	Feedback/changes awaiting review and resolution by Southern Ports.

