

General Information			
Meeting:	Port Community Consultation Committee Meeting		
Meeting No:	2/2026		
Location:	Southern Ports – Esperance Administration Boardroom Cnr Bower Avenue and the Esplanade, Esperance WA		
Date:	6/05/2026	Time Open:	1707
		Time Close:	1758
Attendees			
Name	Title	Name	Title
Stephen Schmedje	PCCC Deputy Chair	Shannan Beal	SPA Community Relations and Partnerships Manager
David Swan	Committee Member	Greg Solly	Interim General Manager, SPA, Esperance
Rob Horan	Committee Member	Alex Leonard	Environmental Manager, SPA, Esperance
Murray McGregor	Committee Member	Michelle Spicer	Committee Secretary, SPA, Esperance
Wayne Walter	Committee Member		
Rod Taylor	Committee Member		
Gerry Harp	PCCC Shire Representative		
Online Attendees:			
Apologies:			
Malcolm Heasman	Committee Member	Stephen Francis	PCCC Chair
Jennifer Obourne	Committee Member		
Minutes of Discussions			
1. Opening, Present and Apologies			
Meeting opened at 1707 by Deputy Chair Stephen Schmedje. Above apologies were noted.			
2. Declaration of Interest from Committee Members			
None			
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting			
The minutes from the previous committee meeting held 04 February 2025 were noted as approved via circular resolution, the circular resolution was ratified by the committee.			
4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes			
None			
5. Trade Facilitation / Supply Chain Update			
Interim General Manager, Greg Solly provided the following update: Yilgarn Iron: consistent operations continue with an increase to eight weekly train unloads at end of March as planned. Annual export volumes now at ~4.2mtpa.			

- **Gold Valley:** short term reduction in train unloads to port at end of March, from five to three per week with the expectation this will increase back up to five unloads per week potentially from late July.
- **Esperance Quality Grains:** first shipment using a new mobile shiploader/telegate conveyor in April which saw ~22,376t of faba beans loaded. SPA continue to work closely with customer to improve load rates and refine operation further.
- **Fuel imports:** vessels continue to be scheduled monthly and arriving as planned.
- **Shed 5 opportunities:** Nutrien Ag to move fertiliser imports through shed 5 with CSBP also contracted to use remainder of Shed 5 capacity. Increased storage and storage flexibility options are supporting fertiliser customers and agriculture in the region.
- **Employment:** Recruitment of 13 additional employees into the Esperance operations team, including four Electricians, seven General Hands with broad skills, one Mechanical Fitter, and one Boilermaker. All roles were filled by Esperance-based personnel, reinforcing the organisation's commitment to regional employment.

Committee Discussion:

- The group spoke around the recent price increase for spodumene and potential new trade due to this.

6. Projects Update

Interim General Manager, Greg Solly provided the following update:

- **Berth 3 shiploader:** blast and paint scope of works scheduled to go to market this month with works planned to commence in September/October 2026.
- **TT01 containment bund:** installation of concrete bund and sheeting works to contain spill at TT01 to mitigate rail degradation risk.
- **Conveyor works:** works on CV09 as scheduled during the April shut down. Remaining maintenance on CV09 and CV11 planned for upcoming shut in July.
- **Berth 1 & 2 pile wrapping:** works to wrap 320 piles under berths 1 & 2 have commenced with completion expected in August.
- **Berth 1 soffit remediation:** stage 1 complete with stage 2 scheduled to commence in October.
- **FEL Yard diesel spill pad:** Contract has been awarded with works scheduled to commence in May 2026.
- **Hughes Road widening:** widening of Hughes Road will allow trucks to navigate the corner better, works scheduled to commence in August 2026.
- **Ocean Drainage outfall:** installation of a new drainage system extending from the existing drainage network, works expected to commence Q2 2027.

7. Environmental Management Update

Environmental Manager, Alex Leonard provided the following update:

- **Licence Amendments**
 - Fertiliser imports to Shed 5 via the Berth 2 harbour crane are now approved as ongoing trade, and the previous trial shipment approval has been closed.
 - Iron ore tonnages are now included on the Licence, allowing us to remove the Ministerial Statements and consolidate those conditions onto the Licence for simpler management.
- **Dredging Approvals**
 - Planning underway for maintenance dredging of the inner harbour, including the shipping channel, turning basin, and berth pockets, to maintain commercial vessel movements.
 - No significant environmental impacts are expected, with sediment predicted to settle quickly based on past dredging campaigns and the coarse local sands.
 - SPA will engage community consultation.
 - Technical support will be led by the consultant and environmental team.
- **WA Ports Collaboration**
 - Ongoing work with other WA Ports to organise an *Environmental Working Group* meeting in Geraldton in three weeks. Port tour will include the magnetite circuit and expansion-related works, which may be relevant to future planning at Esperance.

Committee Discussion:

- It was noted that the committee raised no objections to the planned routine dredging or the proposed upgrades to the stormwater drainage system.

8. Corporate Affairs Update

Corporate Affairs team member; Shannan Beal provided the following update:

- Highlights**

International Women's Day:

- Chief People and Sustainability Officer Monica Birkner spoke at the Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry's International Women's Day event.
- Her key points focused on leadership, workplace culture and the importance of creating inclusive workplaces.

Ministerial Visit:

- CEO Keith Wilks hosted Hon David Michael, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum and Goldfields-Esperance and GEDC's CEO Kris Starceвич. The tour highlighted the completion of our infrastructure upgrades at Shed 5.

New Volunteers for MTS:

- Four new volunteers have joined Mission to Seafarers following our successful 'Cuppa and a Convo' event last year.

- Esperance Cruise Season**

- It was a successful cruise season for Esperance with almost 3,000 passengers and crew visiting the region.
- The 2026-2027 bookings are starting to be confirmed with one already scheduled for January.
- We continue to support the tourism industry and Shire to attract more cruise ships to the region.

- Industry Engagement**

Southern Ports on Stage:

- Planning and Development Manager Iain Robinson joined Mid-West and Pilbara Ports leaders for a panel discussion about what port developments mean for the iron ore industry at the Informa Australia Global Iron Ore and Steel Conference.
- The event gave us the chance to talk about how we are continuing to develop opportunities for our regions by making strong investment across our three ports.

- Community Investment Program**

- 18 recipients, with \$55,550 funding delivered

- In the News (total of 42 mentions)**

- Port of Albany 200-year anniversary celebrated.
- CEO talks about how investing in regional ports creates opportunities for regional industry.
- Diversity of throughput key point of difference for Southern Ports which is allowing regional industry to prosper.
- Mission to Seafarers welcomes Robyn Blackman as new Port of Esperance welfare officer.
- Community Investment Program opens to applicants.
- Market updates on projects linked to Port of Esperance – including Macarthur minerals hematite project, Australian Silica Quartz purchasing company with rights to White Swan Kaolin Project, funding secured for Global Lithium's Manna project.
- New Esperance Monthly magazine had a number of Port of Esperance related articles on news covered in previous months, such as Yilgarn's first shipment, lithium offtake and cruise season in Esperance.

- PortFest Albany**

- The port of Albany marked its 200th year with PortFest.
- Southern Ports largest open day to date – with 4500+ people attending the event including those from across Australia. Terrific feedback from attendees.

A video of PortFest highlights was shared to the group

9. Member Discussion, Feedback and community questions

- A community query was raised about the gardens around the port administration building. The port noted they are working with Tjaltjraak to develop a plan that will further enhance the look and feel of the gardens.

- A follow-up discussion was held regarding the unfenced lake at Adventureland Park and potential safety considerations during busy events. As the land is leased to the Shire, next steps or decisions would sit with them, however Southern Port are happy to offer support where helpful or needed.

10. Any other Business

- Following the meeting's close, the Interim GM set two dates (July 21st and 23rd) where PCCC members are encouraged to attend a Port tour. If members have alternative dates that they are available and would like to conduct a site tour, please contact Southern Ports and we will facilitate the visit.

Next Meeting**Date:** 5/08/2026**Time:** 1700