

MINUTES OF MEETING
SOUTHERN PORTS - ESPERANCE
PORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Date:	Wednesday, 11 April 2018	
Venue:	Southern Ports Esperance - Large Admin. Meeting Room Corner Bower Avenue and The Esplanade ESPERANCE	
Time:	17:10 hours	
Attendees:	Nicolas Fertin Alan Byers Brett Thorp John Richardson Catherine Field Wayne Halliday Matthew Scott Phil Chalmer Gary Wilson	Southern Ports – Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Southern Ports – General Manager, Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry and PCC Chairman Esperance – WA Farmers Federation (WAFF) Southern Ports – Environmental Officer, Esperance Tourism Esperance Shire of Esperance – Chief Executive Officer Southern Ports – Board Member SP – Harbour Master / General Manager Marine
Guest/s:	Chris Tiemann Chris Carr Michael North Tess Lewis Rhona Wardman	IGO - Environment and Community Manager IGO – General Manager MBS Environmental – Senior Environmental Geochemist IGO – Graduate Environment IGO – Senior Environmental Officer
Apologies:	Shane Liddelow	Goldfields Esperance Development Commission – Senior Business Development Officer

1. Opening of meeting

Meeting opened by Brett Thorpe who welcomed everyone and asked the guests to introduce themselves.

Apologies:

Apologies were noted.

Pecuniary Interests:

None declared.

Minutes of Meeting:

Previous meeting minutes were accepted.

Correspondence:

No correspondence has been received.

2. Update on Tawana Resources – Spodumene export

Alan Byers provided a brief update on Tawana resources, the second spodumene exporter to select Esperance port for their exports. 2 SP Esperance staff visited Tawana recently and toured the mine site. Everything appeared to be in order with an early May 2018 shipment planned as the first export. Regular monthly shipments of approximately 10,000 - 12,000 tonnes each month for the near term, ramping up to 15,000 – 18,000 tonnes in the future. The Tawana Resources spodumene storage location is yet to be settled upon.

3. Update by Independence Group (IGO) copper/nickel concentrate export

Michael North provided a brief update on the current situation.

- Trial export licence extended by 12 months which includes additional monitoring to include onshore winds;
- Expected final meeting with Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) by October 2018;
- Catherine Field reminded everyone that SP holds the works approval; and
- Once monitoring reports are completed they will be submitted to DWER for formal assessment towards an ongoing licence;

Michael North then provided a presentation on the next steps plus the results of a recent toxicological study.

- Brief discussion on the loading operation and further improvements made since commencement of exports;
- Toxicological summary of nickel concentrate (Pentlandite) explaining what the current parameters mean;
- Dust monitoring at the port was discussed which included current monitors, samplers and the meteorological station. This also included a map of all stations;
- All shipments sent so far have been compliant with the works approval with the highest sampling results being significantly lower than the required standard;
- Key points for onshore winds explained, however traffic appears to be the main contributor to sampling results, following a discussion on land or road based nickel;

Q: Brett Thorp – Question is this report only for IGO product?

A: Michael North – Yes, however would be applicable to all other nickel sulphide sites.

Q: John Richardson – How does the study figures compare to the current figures?

A: Chris Carr and Michael North – Explained that the existing figures do not relate to the current operation or the type of nickel concentrate, so are really not applicable. Catherine Field then indicated that it was now up to DoH.

Q: Brett Thorpe – Are you confident that your suggested timeframes are okay?

A: Chris Tiemann – At this stage the full report will be submitted in May 2018. In any event it is believed that the worst situation will be an extension of the trial period.

Q: Brett Thorpe – What are the annual shipments of the IGO products?

A: Chris Carr – Currently IGO ship out approx. 110,000 tonnes of nickel and 40,000 tonnes of copper per annum.

Nicolas Fertin then discussed correspondence received from a member of the public via the local MP, raising concerns about the nickel exports on a couple of occasions. The same correspondence was also sent to the minister's office. SPE staff have responded to the concerns.

Brett Thorpe then stated that he believed that the member of the public was happy with the information received.

Further discussion was held on whether the presentation should be made public, however it was considered that it should not be made public at least until DoH has made a decision.

4. Port Development works, including sealing internal roads

Alan Byers provided an update on Port Development works.

Hairpin Bend – Following the successful road sealing works that have been undertaken on roads and the area between sheds 2 and 6 greatly minimising the possibility of fugitive dust, it has been

decided to continue the work and seal the hairpin bend. Excavation work has been completed to ensure the integrity of the below ground compaction and widening of the turn for triple trucks. Sealing will be completed in the new financial year.

Stormwater Filtration on Berth 2 – A new filtration system consisting of underground piping and tanks is being installed to handle all possible contaminants that enter the stormwater system on berth 2. This includes a new filter media which can stop contaminated particles from entering the harbour. This work is currently being undertaken.

Hughes Road –This project has had a number of revisions to the plans. The latest plan is to determine the best method of retaining the earth bank along the upper part of Hughes Road. There are a number of methods available which could range from the construction of a new retaining wall to reducing the slope of the earth bank and not replacing the retaining wall. A decision will be made in time to commence works in the new financial year.

5. Berth 3 Alternative Uses

Berth 3 has come under the spotlight since the recent Cliffs announcement. Drawings and plans are currently being designed to allow cruise ships to moor alongside berth 3 with access to allow passengers to disembark onto the berth. Additionally, there is a project in place to turn the berth into a multi-product facility.

Nicolas Fertin commented on what is happening with iron ore into the future, however could not supply much information as there are a number of discussions being held between Cliffs, the government and potential purchasers of Cliffs that are confidential.

Q: Phil Chalmer – Enquired if even with iron ore into the future, would we still consider the berth for multi-product use?

A: Nicolas Fertin – We will continue with diversifying berth 3 use.

6. PCC Charter

Nicolas Fertin spoke on the PCC charter which has been reviewed recently, then sent to the PCC for comment. No feedback was received in Esperance, however 3 issues were raised and discussed at the other SP ports. This has now been finalised. An updated Charter to be available at the next meeting.

7. Dust monitoring results

Catherine Field discussed a recent audit by DWER in January 2018. The main concerns were dust issues which are outside SP control. SP Esperance has had their new risk based Environmental Licence issued in February 2018 after many meetings and discussions. More discussion to be held on the new licence at the July 2018 meeting. Main areas for discussion are further road sealing, reduction in the amount of reporting and move from TSP to PM10 monitoring to look more at the smaller dust particles in the air.

Catherine Field further explained that there was one clause for possible inclusion in the new licence which was still being worked on with other WA ports, called a material change clause for categorising and approving new commodities. Which means that products with a higher risk will be run through a more rigorous process than those with lower environmental risks.

Further discussion was held on dust outside SP control. Questions were asked by Phil Chalmer and Brett Thorpe about what controls can be put in place, however Catherine Field indicated that the products were not regulated, therefore did not come under the same controls as other products.

There have been no noise complaints in 2018, with the last being in late 2017 for concrete cutting and a noisy ships siren.

8. Southern Ports Review

Nicolas Fertin provided a brief rundown on the post amalgamation review. The results were made public on 22 February 2018. The review is on the Department of Transport (DOT) website.

Nicolas Fertin covered the main points within the review. Brett Thorpe covered the fact that there is a working group. Nicolas Fertin also mentioned the bullying claims which Brett Thorpe added that the current uncertainty does not help the situation.

9. Media articles

Alan Byers discussed a number of media items mentioning the Port from 14 October 2017 to 30 January 2018.

There were a few positive articles on the recently completed Employee Agreement. This was a good result for everyone as it now allows the port to compete on a level playing field with visiting stevedores.

Additionally, there were many articles on the post amalgamation review and bullying claims over a number of months. All complaints have been finalised.

Garry Wilson spoke about a ship in port loading grain that was partially powered by the wind. It has a number of tubular devices called Flettner rotors on the deck which rotate whilst the ship is underway which increases the speed whilst decreasing the amount of traditional fuel being used.

10. Other Business

- *Cliffs impact on other port customers*

Nicolas Fertin explained if there was not going to be anymore iron ore other port users, contractors such as the tugs, power suppliers, rail provider etc. are likely to be affected.

- *Dempster Head*

Matthew Scott informed the meeting that the Dempster Head management plan was out for public comment and asked SPE to look at this.

- *Public consultation plan*

Michael North commented on the fact that both IGO and SP would be undergoing a public consultation period for the finalisation of the nickel export trial period.

- *Cruise ships*

Wayne Halliday provided a good rundown on the cruise ship season which had just ended. It was another successful season and if SP can provide guaranteed cruise ship berthing, it is likely to be even better into the future. Gary Wilson commented on the likely arrival of the new Azimara next season.

Meeting Closed: 18:55 hours
Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 11th July 2018
Time: 17:00 hours
Venue SP office Esperance