

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
SOUTHERN PORTS - ESPERANCE  
PORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

**Date:** Wednesday, 04 March 2020

**Venue:** Southern Ports – Esperance Administration Boardroom  
Cnr Bower Avenue and the Esplanade, Esperance WA 6450

**Time:** 17:00 hours

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| <b>Attendees:</b> | Brett Thorp      | Committee Member & PCCC Deputy Chair            |
|                   | Stephen Schmedje | Committee Member                                |
|                   | Malcolm Heasman  | Committee Member                                |
|                   | Basil Parker     | Shire of Esperance, Cr - Rural Ward             |
|                   | Greg Solly       | Operations and Maintenance Manager, Esperance   |
|                   | Alex Leonard     | Southern Ports – Environment Manager, Esperance |
|                   | Phil Chalmer     | Southern Ports – Director                       |
|                   | Tori Castledine  | Corporate Affairs Officer                       |
|                   | Michelle Spicer  | Committee Secretary                             |

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| <b>Guest/s:</b> | David Geraghty | Executive General Manager - MRL |
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| <b>Apologies:</b> | Stephen Francis | Committee Member & PCCC Chair |
|                   | Simon Gribble   | Committee Member              |
|                   | Steve Lewis     | CEO Southern Ports            |
|                   | Scott Bates     | Regional Manager, Esperance   |
|                   | Keith Wilks     | COO Southern Ports            |

**1. OPENING OF MEETING**

Meeting opened by Deputy Chairperson Brett Thorp at 16:58 hours, who welcomed all and thanked all for attending.

Above apologies were noted.

David Geraghty from MRL was welcomed and thanked for his attendance.

A reminder was verbalised regarding confidentiality of sensitive information provided during PCCC Meetings.

**2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Previous minutes from meeting held on 04 December 2019 were approved by Stephen Schmedje and seconded by Alex Leonard.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

None

**4. PORT DEVELOPMENT/PROJECTS UPDATE**

Greg Solly, Operations and Maintenance Manager Esperance, provided the following update on Port development/projects:

**Shed 4** – Shed 4 access road will go out to tender and be evaluated in March 2020. Second phase of access road is a truck in loading system, SP intention is to have this completed this financial year.

**Sinking of Fuel Pig Pen Station - Berth 2** – Project currently on time and budget. This project remains an important one due to FQM's recent increase in storage container requirements.

**Port Precinct Development** – Currently at prefeasibility stage, awaiting information from architects. SP expecting this in April as well as government and treasury updates. Communication with the community will take place going forward.

**Berth 1 Dredging** – No change, still a potential.

**Hughes Road Project** – Project complete. Ongoing maintenance.

**Berth 2 Nickel Loader** – After recent structural inspections, SP now looking at the possibility of removing the entire ship loader off the berth rather than piece by piece which would provide flow on benefits. Depending on engineers report as to if the berth can handle this option. SP continues to examine multiple options.

**Electrical Workshop Fire Update** – No additional information since previous PCCC Meeting regarding fire. Southern Ports have not received a formal confirmation of the cause of fire to date. SP awaiting information (expected in April) regarding Port Precinct Building before planning to build a new electrical workshop as if the Port Precinct goes ahead, a new electrical workshop will be incorporated into this plan. Work in with port master planning  
A temporary workshop has been set up in the stores building which is sufficient in the short term. Discussion around fire mitigation considering the recent fire in Bunbury of woodchips. SP will be carrying out an audit of fire detection and fire suppression.

## 5. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Alex Leonard, Environment Manager, provided the following environmental management update:

**Woodchip Dust** – The port of Esperance experienced increased woodchip dust levels Friday afternoon on 21 February through to Monday afternoon 24 February during loading. We received numerous complaints from community members including a caravan park residing in close proximity to the port.

Southern Ports have issued an apology in the local newspaper for this incident. Although this was a nuisance and involved a large clean up, there were no health risks, unless individuals were allergic to the actual woodchips.

The environmental team at Southern Ports communicated with SPF, the product owner to ensure the Port's expectations and requirements on dust controls were implemented.

Improvement actions have included wetting down the berth regularly, setting up shrouding and water sprays around the transfer chutes.

Southern Ports will continue to work with product owners to ensure woodchip moisture levels are at a level expected by the port. SPF continue to attend safety meetings and good communication will be maintained.

A discussion was had around the potential for environmental management at the port on weekends.

An agreement will be in place with SPF on moisture expectations for the next vessel and what further actions they can take in reducing the risk.

### **Biosecurity –**

- Domestic and International Containers – Commonwealth Dept of Agriculture determined there is no such thing as domestic containers any longer given that domestic containers are comingled with international containers on the same vessel, which meant our container trade was not compliant with biosecurity requirements under new legislation. SP put together an interim procedure allowing us to utilise an approved container stand, using the method of unloading and placing on a sealed hard stand. 350 containers have been inspected and none contaminated to date. If any issues are detected, the containers will be isolated in shed 4 or 6 and the Department of Biosecurity will be notified. On their advice, they will be taken to Fremantle to an approved wash bay. This will go on for a few months until a compliant washbay is built. On the proviso of good performance, SP are expecting exemptions to container vessels during this period to continue until compliance is attained.

### **Licence Amendments –**

- PMI - Fertilizer in Shed 6 and spodumene across Berth 3, still sitting with DEWA, have been granted another 6 months for licence amendment.
- DBCA – meeting to be held in the next couple of weeks regarding marine reserve network and the potential impact on port activities and control of Port waters.

## **6. MRL PRESENTATION –** David Geraghty provided an in-depth presentation covering safety, operations, port development, noise/dust monitoring and community involvement.

Please see link to presentation, for your perusal:

<https://www.southernports.com.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/PCCC%20MRL%20Meeting%20Mar2020.pdf>

Further to this, please see this link for video that was provided:

<https://www.mineralresources.com.au/our-business/> (scroll to end of page for video)

Discussion points:

- Australia's fifth largest iron ore producer
- World's fifth largest lithium miner.

### **Safety:**

Following a fatality in 2013 an 8-month safety audit was conducted and found that individual safety training was imperative as opposed to a designated safety employee responsible for groups of employees. Safety trend since 2013 has been impeccable.

### **Operations:**

108 million ton of iron ore identified, with 87 million measured category. In order to support increased iron ore rates, port development is necessary.

Engineering works have begun on upgrading and utilising the current RCD.

Rail Loop will allow single clean movement with wagons and reduce noise. Project will have some access impact. MRL will provide strong communication going forward and work to minimise impact on other port users.

Discussion around capacity possibilities with rail loop and upgraded RCD – capacity will be capped at 15-16 million.

**Noise:**

Acoustic panelling was installed inside RCD during closure time.

Northern area of loop potentially could create elevated noise. MRL are committed to finding an engineering solution for this prior to any works commencing.

**Dust:**

MRL continue to be committed to improving dust lift off from the wagons. Weather conditions play a big part on dust lift off.

**Community:**

Last year collectively - 2 million dollars given to community/charity of which \$700,000 went regionally.

**7. NEW / CURRENT TRADE UPDATE**

Greg Solly, Operations and Maintenance Manager Esperance provided an update on new trade opportunities for Port of Esperance:

**Iron Ore Capacity** – Refer to MRL Presentation

**Woodchip Customers** – Woodchips going over Berth 1. Potential negotiations with SPF for woodchips to go over Berth 3, at this stage not progressing with woodchips on Berth 3

**FQM** – Had first 2 sulphur vessels and the first container vessel late February.

**CBH** – Forecast of 1.6 million ton expected this year with predicted decreases.

**ALITA** – Gone into administration. Potential to keep Bald Hill mine going with new proponents.

**GALAXY** – Recommenced after planning 6-month shut down.  
30,000 ton vessel 5/6 March 2020. Hopeful they will gradually return to normal.

**IGO** – Nickel and Copper remain strong. Next vessel due in 10 days.

**MRL** – Refer to MRL presentation

**8. MEDIA REPORT**

Tori Castledine, Corporate Affairs Advisor introduced herself and provided an overview of her new role with Southern Ports.

Majority of media articles since last PCCC meeting held December 2019, were around Tanker Jetty, electrical shed fire, dust coming from the port and Southern Ports response to COVID-19 (Corona Virus).

Committee members were advised that they have been included in the distribution list for media releases, this ensures that PCCC communication is up to date and timely, rather than receiving out of date information at quarterly meetings. This will be reassessed going forward.

Improving two-way communication between PCCC and SP will be discussed at the next meeting, including how information from these meetings is disseminated through members networks and how SP could potentially assist with this. Any suggestions are welcome.

Please see the Media report attached.

## 9. PCCC 2020 SCHEDULE

Michelle Spicer, Committee Secretary provided an update on the next scheduled PCCC Meeting. Due to Board Meeting change of date, the next PCCC Meeting will now be held **Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020**, which will include a Board Members 'Meet and Greet' prior. It was noted that the Board has a new Chairperson; Ian Shepherd, and one new member; Jane Cutler.

## 10. APPLICATIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS/REAPPLICATIONS

3 PCCC renomination applications have been received; Malcolm Heasman, Stephen Schmedje and Stephen Francis.

All present at the meeting are in favour of recommending these applications to the board for approval.

## 11. COMMUNITY QUESTIONS/ISSUES (PCCC Members)

None

## 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

**Meeting Closed:** 18:18 hours

**Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020  
Time: 17:00 hours  
This PCCC occurrence will include a Board Members 'Meet and Greet' prior to commencement of meeting.