

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

Date: Wednesday, 22 July 2020
Venue: Southern Ports – Esperance Administration Boardroom
 Cnr Bower Avenue and the Esplanade, Esperance WA 6450
Time: 1700 hours

Attendees:	Stephen Francis Simon Gribble Malcolm Heasman Stephen Schmedje David Swan Basil Parker Scott Bates Robert Alexander Alex Leonard David McGrinder Tori Castledine Michelle Spicer	Committee Member & PCCC Chair Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Shire of Esperance, Cr - Rural Ward Regional Manager, Esperance General Manager Port Development, SP Southern Ports – Environment Manager, Esperance Client Liaison Officer, SP Corporate Affairs Advisor, SP Committee Secretary, Esperance
Attendees: Via VC/Teams	Phil Chalmer Steve Lewis Keith Wilks	Board Representative CEO Southern Ports COO Southern Ports
Apologies:	Brett Thorp	Committee Member & PCCC Deputy Chair

1. OPENING OF MEETING

Meeting opened by Chairperson Stephen Francis at 16:59 hours, who welcomed all and thanked all for attending.
 Above apologies were noted.

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Previous minutes from meeting held on 04 March 2020 were approved by Stephen Schmedje and seconded by Malcolm Heasman.

3. COVID-19 Update

Scott Bates, *Regional Manager Esperance* provided the following COVID-19 update:

Frist PCCC Meeting sine COVID-19 outbreak.

Southern Ports (SP) responded quickly to the COVID-19 outbreak with a “3 pillar approach” which consisted of; protect staff, protect community, maintain port operations and trade.

Multiple measures were put in place including but not limited to; office staff working from home, roster changes/split rosters, increased hygiene and cleaning across all common areas including

vehicles, maintenance and operations teams split into multiple groups - in the event that if an employee contracted the virus in one particular team, SP would have coverage to keep operations going.

Scott reiterated that SP are continuing to remain vigilant and maintaining workplace reminders and recommended measures such as; observing social distancing, frequent hand washing, cleaning vehicles.

SP employees were kept well informed with weekly COVID-19 updates provided by CEO Steve Lewis.

Apprentices are beginning to return to their TAFE block studies.

Workplace students have returned to their workplace learning at SP.

IT solutions were fast tracked to assist with employees working remotely.

SP is and will continue to apply the 14-day isolation period for international vessels coming into port. No vessel may enter port unless this isolation period has been observed which is inevitable for berthing in Esperance as the vessels are at sea for a minimum of 14-days.

Community question raised regarding vessel crew sighted at a shopping centre shopping for supplies.

SP confirmed that crew are not permitted to leave the vessel and have not been granted shore leave since the pandemic began, this community sighting was prior to pandemic restrictions.

There is minimal contact between crew and SP employees and where there is contact full PPE is worn by employees.

Chairperson made comment that community feedback has been very positive regarding SP robust approach to COVID-19.

Chairperson Stephen Francis revisited Item 1. - Opening of Meeting:

Stephen Francis introduced new PCCC Member David Swan and welcomed him to the committee.

4. PORT DEVELOPMENT/PROJECTS UPDATE

Robert Alexander - *General Manager Port Development*, introduced himself to all PCCC members and provided the following update on Port development/projects:

Master Planning

A 12-month Master Planning exercise is soon to launch. The intent of this will guide the port development over the next 30-year time frame in order to meet customers' demands and facilitate trade.

The first stage of the planning will involve engagement with the community and stakeholders, discerning the expectations for the future of the port.

This will be followed by a critical trade forecast stage, looking at future trade and will give an indication of potential port development needs.

Once this information has been gathered, SP will undertake a development piece, looking at how we will develop the port to accommodate trade forecasts.

SP are aware that engaging with community and stakeholders is a key element of the Master Planning exercise and they will be involved throughout the development process.

Road Infrastructure - 2 works in progress:

- Hairpin bend – bituminising the road in order to reduce dust. Project will go ahead.
- Access Road to shed 4 - in progress – will reduce travel into the sulphur shed (shed 4) around the gravel road.

Sinking of Fuel Pig Launcher - Berth 2 – Contract has been awarded to install an underground fuel pit at the back of berth 2 which will remove the pig launcher. Works will commence mid-August

Shed 1 re-cladding – Project completed on schedule and budget.

Pile Jacketing – Berth 3

Extensive pile jacketing project will be finalised July 2020.
Pile jacketing for Berth 2 will commence late 2020.

Submissions to State Government – SP have made multiple submissions for additional projects, still waiting on outcomes.

Community question raised if there will be reporting on the Master Planning.
State government will be involved however SP are responsible to work through and get to the proposed plan.

CEO Steve Lewis added further comment regarding Master Planning:

As part of the consultation process, PCCC will be updated each meeting and comments will be taken on board.

After SP have completed the 3 phases of master planning (trade forecasting, option work, final options) it then needs to be endorsed by our board, then presentation to the Minister, followed by a validation.

Community question raised regarding how the community will be consulted?
Initial stages it will be some targeting consultation through surveys and PCCC group.

Corporate Affairs Advisor, Tori Castledine added further comments:

Community feedback will be sought. The port is Esperance's Port, the community will be given the opportunity to be involved in shaping what our future direction will look like.

Community question raised regarding port expansion and increasing tonnage for port users that would like to expand their tonnage aggressively.

Master planning will guide that development by understanding what might come to market and what infrastructure we need in order to support that.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE

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

Iron Ore Moisture Levels

With increased growth in Iron Ore, it is imperative that we get the moisture levels right in order to reduce dust. Positive results have been received from the regulator and a requirement has been incorporated on the licence for a minimum moisture limit. This was received well by MRL. SP is confident this will make a significant difference. Data on Iron Ore dust was recently restored to a long-term base line.

Operating Licence

Poor management of spodumene stockpiles (lithium ore) at Galaxy's Mt Cattlin mine site at Ravensthorpe, led to DWER placing restrictions on the Port Licence for handling Galaxy's spodumene only using Rotabox over Berth 2. This mine site restriction implies that the Port would be required to seek a new approval for each new mine site even though it may be same type of bulk product already handled through the Port. With the assistance of other ports, the regulator accepted that events at the mine are independent of events at the Port and decisions on regulation at the Port should be a risk based on the hazards of the product combined with the loading controls in use. This was accepted.

Biosecurity Wash Bay

After considerable delays waiting for feedback from Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Environment (DoAWE) on concept drawings, SP have received feedback and are confident

in the next couple of weeks this will be open for tender. Local businesses have been notified and this will also be open for a wider audience.

We appreciate delays in provision of this washbay is inconveniencing our clients, particularly Seaways and MSC.

Taylor St Fuel Tank

Agreement was reached with BP in late 2019 to cover costs of investigation and planning to remove an underground fuel tank. In addition to commercial issues, removal of the tank has significant engineering issues and costs, being only 1.6m from the footings of a Bell Tower. SP have since taken over with a new sense of urgency to get this resolved and proceeded to explore what action is required regarding the extent of contamination around the tank, if any. BP have been informed and will be approached for costs after the actions have been taken. Awaiting results to determine next steps and SP will continue to share information with committee as we receive it.

Budget for Data System

Budget received to continue environmental data base system which provides accuracy and efficiency.

Woodchip Dust

Vessel in June a big improvement on the vessel in February. The water sprays and loading controls were improved that compensated for a drier product, but the wetter conditions and offshore winds reduced dust impacts to the community to an acceptable level on this occasion. SP continuing to communicate with SPF requesting significant improvements so that dust is acceptable under a wider range of weather conditions.

Community question regarding fire ant monitoring.

SP confirmed none were found when investigated so no action required.

Community question regarding asphaltting throughout the entire port to reduce dust.

SP confirmed the significant cause of dust was the hairpin bend. Hard sealing all internal port roads is in the pipeline for the future.

Steve Lewis provided the following brief update:

Steve confirmed that Phil Chalmer and himself will leave meeting early due to Bunbury PCCC meeting being held at the same time.

Updates

End of financial year figures have been very pleasing, with tonnage up 60% (11.39 million tonnes). This restoration run rate is a positive boost for the town and community of Esperance.

Steve extended his appreciation for the well skilled staff in Esperance, efficiently running the Iron Ore circuit.

With FQM back on-board it's great to see the sulphur shed filling up.

Master Planning will include how we can take on more Iron Ore.

SP are currently looking at ways to stimulate additional procurement for local business.

In a move to have Esperance a technologically labelled port, a drone has been purchased and going forward SP will be looking into more opportunities to support technology for Esperance Port.

With Rob Alexanders' commencement as General Manager Port Development, Esperance is continuing to recruit to support his executive role.

The growth in Iron Ore growth will result in the circuit needing additional support, which will create further recruitment opportunities and potentially bring families into the community.

COVID-19

Although Esperance is still case free, SP will continue to ensure employees remain vigilant and maintain measures in case of a flare up or second wave in WA.

The Government will be making stimulus package announcements to boost the economy due to COVID-19 and we are expecting a portion of that stimulus to come to Esperance.

Stakeholder survey to be released October/November and all are encouraged to provide direct feedback.

Steve Lewis and Phil Chalmer left the meeting.

6. NEW / CURRENT TRADE UPDATE

Scott Bates, Regional Manager Esperance provided an update on new trade opportunities for Port of Esperance:

Introduction of new Southern Ports Esperance employee - *Client Liaison Officer* - David McGrinder. David will liaise with port users, assist with new trade and customer service.

It was expected that due to COVID-19 trade would be significantly impacted, however in Esperance, we have seen a growth in trade on the back of iron-ore, fertilizer and grain.

Iron Ore - Significant growth in the last quarter (April–June). The month of June saw over 1 million tonnes of export recorded.

Fertiliser - Large increase in fertiliser imports. May and June recorded nearly half of the annual tonnage in 2 months.

CBH - Grain starting to slow on the back of big months in April/May

FQM - After a significant amount of works carried out on the sulphur circuit, operations have bedded down, and rates are comparable to pre care and maintenance phase.

Spodumene - Galaxy, MRL and PMI continue to export strongly through the port.

Woodchips - Unlikely SPF will have a vessel in the first quarter of FY 2021.

Container Vessels - SP have bedded down ANL & MSC which call into Esperance monthly.

7. MEDIA REPORT

Tori Castledine, *Corporate Affairs Advisor* provided the following media and sponsorship report:

As discussed at previous PCCC Meeting, media releases and updates are now distributed to committee members via email in real time rather than copies of outdated news reports being distributed at PCCC meetings.

Majority of media articles were COVID-19 reports and providing updates and reassurance to the community.

Other articles include; SP CEO Steve Lewis reappointed for a further 3 years and trade increase. There has been some difficulty communicating with the community due to local paper, *Esperance Express* ceasing operations.

SP have launched a social media page on Facebook as an alternative method of communicating with the community. Positive community feedback received.

Sponsorship open for 2020-2021 year. The following have received sponsorship from Southern Ports.

- Esperance Cycling Club
- Esperance District Football Association
- Esperance Golf Club

- Squash Club
- Frisbee Club
- Life Cycle for Canteen
- Edge of the Bay Festival - Shire

8. PCCC 2020 SCHEDULE

Michelle Spicer, *Committee Secretary* provided an update on PCCC schedule:

In order to maintain the attendance of PCCC committee members, the next two PCCC dates were provided:

- Wednesday 21st October 2020 – including Port Tour at 4:00pm
- Wednesday 20th January 2021

Feedback requested for availability of members to attend a port tour Wednesday 21st October prior to meeting at 4:00pm – members were pleased to confirm they are available to attend.

Michelle to provide further information and instructions closer to the date.

An ERT (Emergency Response Team) presentation will also be provided at meeting held on Wednesday 21st October.

9. REVIEW OF PCCC CHARTER

Tori Castledine, Corporate Affairs Advisor invited committee members to provide feedback on the PCCC charter review:

David Swan queried Section 3.1 Role of the Committee – concerns around why “*identify positive and negative social, economic and environmental impacts of the Port*” had been struck off.

No other comments. Members were invited to provide feedback via email to Committee Secretary if they had any further feedback regarding the charter.

10. COMMUNITY QUESTIONS/ISSUES (PCCC Members)

Discussion around containers – do they come in empty or with product?

Majority of the containers are empty they are filled at the mine and are sent back out again. There is a small amount of lime that occasionally comes in.

Chairperson added further comment regarding members potentially meeting outside of PCCC meetings in order to collaborate and gain feedback from the community, so they can represent the community in the best way possible and provide feedback.

Discussion around marina funding for yacht club.

Rob confirmed that SP have commissioned an options study for that area which will involve a significant consultation component with community and key stakeholders, which will include the yacht club.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

Meeting Closed: 18:08 hours

Date of Next Meeting: **Port Tour – 1600 hours**
Wednesday 21st October 2020
PCCC Meeting: 1700 hours