



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

**Date:** Wednesday, 21 October 2020  
**Venue:** Southern Ports – Esperance Administration Boardroom  
 Cnr Bower Avenue and the Esplanade, Esperance WA 6450  
**Time:** 1700 hours

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

**1. OPENING OF MEETING**

Meeting opened by Chairperson Stephen Francis (SF) at 17:16 hours, who welcomed all and thanked all for attending.

Port Tour for PCCC Members took place prior to meeting which resulted in meeting commencing a short time after the scheduled 17:00 hours. SF thanked *Regional Manager*, Scott Bates and *CEO*, Steve Lewis for ongoing input and noted that “the Esperance Port are doing great things.” Above apologies were noted.

**2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Previous minutes from meeting held on 22 July 2020 were approved by Brett Thorp (BT) and seconded by Malcolm Heasman. (MH).

**3. COVID-19 UPDATE**

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

Keith Wilks (KW), *Chief Operating Officer* for Southern Ports (SP) is continually communicating with all SP sites providing any ongoing and updated state/federal information regarding COVID-19.

Southern Ports are continuing to maintain vigilance including utilising correct PPE, social distancing and cleaning regimes.

WA Police visited Esperance Port and conducted an audit through the port. They were satisfied with the measure's SP are taking.

SP stands ready to reimplement strict measures if an outbreak was to occur in WA.

Community members often ask about the 14-day rule for vessels coming into Port. SP ensures the vessels have been at sea for a minimum of 14 days before they are permitted to berth, which is inevitable for berthing in Esperance as vessels are at sea for a minimum of 14-days. Further to this, shore leave is not permitted for any of the crew.

SF made comment that there is community concern considering what is happening in Fremantle currently. Esperance Port is ticking all the boxes to date and this is conveyed back to the community.

SB commented that we stand ready and our policies and procedures remain in place.

Steve Lewis (SL), *CEO* added comment – vigilance is key and commitment to the process. The process is strengthening with each maritime incident that occurs.

KW added comment – In March 2020 COVID-19 impacted international and state travel, however Ports around the globe have been dealing with COVID-19 since January 2020. SP have participated in a number of programs that have helped strengthen the border including;

- Health Departments enhanced screening program providing frontline staff (airports, ports, transport and hotel quarantine industries) the opportunity to participate freely in weekly Covid testing.
- All ports in the state were given opportunity to take part in scenario workshops on '*positive case on a ship response plan*' and workshop specific scenarios for their port. Esperance participated in this. State agencies are handling any incidents in accordance with the state plan.

Seafarers are required to go home and change out when maximum sea time is reached, which means there is an interchange of seafarers coming out of countries, enhanced screening will keep us alert and protected.

#### **4. CEO UPDATE**

Steve Lewis, *CEO Southern Ports* provided the following update:

SL acknowledged board member Phil Chalmer as being present and gave recognition for attending PCCC Meetings and his input advocating the town of Esperance.

2020 Annual Report is now on the Southern Ports website. Great results came out of the report for Southern Ports progress in general and in particular Esperance, with trade bouncing back, which was reflected in the report.

Master planning going ahead for Esperance. The exercise in Esperance is important and exciting and will flow in investment.

Smart Port innovation work continues in Esperance.

Projects in Esperance will tidy up drainage and roads and will keep the port presentable, as it is part of the town.

Strategic Direction currently being updated and once approved will be shared.

Board meeting will be held in Esperance on Wednesday 28 October as well as the Stakeholder Function that evening. SP looks forward to an evening of engagement with our stakeholders.

Stakeholder survey will be out on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October. Feedback is essential.

MH – Asset management, how do SP sell it to the government?

SL – Providing there is a good business case as to why we are doing something, in general, eventually there will be success. Master planning, strategic direction, customer service and trade facilitation are things that drive investment.

## 5. PRESENTATION: EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Tim Ammon (TA), *Training and Safety Advisor & ERT Coordinator* provided a detailed presentation showcasing capabilities and tasks performed by ERT, including assisting in the community. Please follow below link to view presentation:

<https://www.southernports.com.au/sites/default/files/2020-11/ERT%20Presentation.pdf>

BT – Are all volunteers port workers?

TA – Currently yes, however SP have extended invitation to port users to join ERT and encouraged this as it offers additional skills and numbers for the team.

## 6. PORT DEVELOPMENT/PROJECTS UPDATE

Robert Alexander (RA) - *General Manager Port Development*, provided the following update on Port development/projects:

RA introduced Iain Robinson (IR), Projects and Planning Manager. Iain will be assisting project planning and assets throughout the ports.

### ***Master Planning***

Stakeholder engagement phase is nearing completion. Positive response was received from the surveys and we had an array of response from community members and port users/employees. SP conducted face to face interviews with key stakeholders and received encouraging feedback and great interest in what we are trying to achieve.

Results will be incorporated in future development options.

Data is currently being compiled for developing up the trade forecasting piece which will be finalised end of October and this information will be brought back to the key stakeholders and project steering committee.

***Sinking of Fuel Pig Launcher - Berth 2*** – Project complete

***Shed 4 access road*** – Project complete

***Submissions to state government*** – Minister announced 10 million funding for projects

### ***Upcoming projects:***

- ***Sealing of internal roads*** – Project will go ahead
- ***Berth 2 hard stand and water treatment*** – Project will assist in reducing contaminates
- ***Demolition of Nickel Circuit*** – this will provide optionality on Berth 2
- ***Biosecurity Container Wash Bay*** – Project commencing late October and will allow container trade to continue

SF added further comment thanking Rob for vision going forward and this has been communicated back to Esperance community members.

## 7. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Alex Leonard (AL), *Environment Manager*, provided the following environmental management update:

### **Annual Compliance Reports**

Environmental Department busy with compiling annual compliance reports which span monitoring data for noise, dust, wastewater and storm water.

As well as compliance reporting the team are strongly focused on occupational reporting to DMIRS which goes towards licence reporting and environmental approvals to DWER.

Data management is currently compiled utilising spreadsheets. We are currently going through tender to obtain a data management system which will assist with efficiency.

### **Iron Ore Moisture Levels**

Currently moisture levels are good as expected. SP will monitor closely as summer approaches. There are processes in place to manage compliance if minimum moisture levels are reached.

The process includes notification to the regulator and agreement on actions. Conveyor sprays may be utilised to meet the limit before ship loading.

### **Spodumene Moisture Levels**

As spodumene is a hard rock, it does not absorb moisture, therefore SP are in the process of working with a laboratory to revise the method determining the Dust Extinguishable Moisture level to compensate for spodumene not absorbing water which will enable more compliance and save resources in trying to keep the product at a higher moisture than is required to eliminate dust during handling.

### **Operating Licence**

Negotiations continue on license conditions with DWER to allow 12-month trial shipments for new products. Based on monitoring results over 12 months, formal approval and risk assessment takes place which fast tracks trade and protects the environment.

Change in handling process (for example - change from rotabox to conveyor ship loading) has been added to the licence, which after a risk assessment is carried out, will allow the approval process to be a period of 30 days rather than 12 months. This will increase flexibility and our response to trade.

### **Taylor St Fuel Tank**

Our soil and groundwater investigations indicate the contamination around the tank is acceptable under the Contaminated Sites Act, so the tank can remain where it is currently located and be infilled with sand or foam. Following this, we will apply to the regulator to reclassify our lands to remove the requirement for further investigations.

Simon Gribble (SG) – Question raised regarding potential dust from woodchips – When they start moving the woodchips, will they have to meet any moisture level requirements prior to moving it?

AL – SP recommended a minimum moisture level and the addition of water to the stockpiles, however SP advised this is impractical to be carried out. The focus will be ensuring there are sufficient sprays on the out-loading system, and we will respond quickly by shutting down loading if this is not evident.

DM – Meetings have also been held to address any concerns. Significant improvements have been actioned since the last shipment.

SG – This is a constant question being raised by concerned community members.

SB – There is now a requirement in place that a meeting must take place 21 days prior to a woodchip vessel to discuss their mitigation methods for dust control.

SF – There is community concern regarding potential increased iron ore dust going into the Christmas period where there will likely be increased tonnage and potentially very dry product, have there been discussions with MRL regarding this?

AL – There is a legal requirement to supply product with a certain moisture, if that moisture level is not met, we have to inform DWER and agree on a plan of action. This may result in diversion of the product away from the shiploader to a storage shed to be conditioned by water sprays until it is sufficiently moist to allow shiploading.

SB – MRL are very supportive of dust control and additional measures. We are confident they will facilitate in any way possible to mitigate potential dust problems.

## 8. NEW / CURRENT TRADE UPDATE

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

**Iron Ore -** Slow start to the financial year due to wet weather causing damp product. With good months in September and October we are back on track for our target run rate

**Spodumene -** Trade is strong. PMI are looking at increasing tonnage. Galaxy continue to export through the port.

**CBH -** Wind damage to some crops and a dry year are contributing factors likely resulting in a moderate year for the 2020 harvest season

**Fertiliser -** On track for a reasonable year, however we won't see a fertiliser vessel until November

**Nickel -** Slight reduction in Nickel exports due to some product being sent to the Kalgoorlie smelter

**Fuel -** Trade is steady

**Container Vessels** – Container trade is expanding

**Diggers and Dealers** – Rob Alexander, Scott Bates and David McGrinder attended Diggers and Dealers conference in Kalgoorlie in mid-October. Great feedback and positivity for the future

**Potential Rail Loop** – Discussions still ongoing

### **Potential Upcoming Trade:**

- Ongoing discussions with Macarthur
- Log Trade

Southern Ports have increased staff in the past few months which is a reflection on increased trade.

Phil Chalmer added further comment – Buy local scheme brought in for Ports.

## 9. MEDIA AND SPONSORSHIP REPORT

Michelle Spicer, *Committee Secretary* provided the following media and sponsorship report on behalf of Tori Castledine, *Corporate Affairs Advisor*.

Media coverage related to Southern Ports continues to centre on our response to COVID-19, as well as summarising detail from our 2020 Annual Report.

All PCCC members should have received a link to the Annual Report, which is now available on our website. If you haven't, please let me know and I can forward one to you. There are also hard copies available if you would like one.

Our social media presence continues to grow, and we are getting great engagement with the Esperance community. It's been a great tool to disseminate good news information, let people the community know what's going on and put a more humanised feel to the organisation. We're benchmarking our engagement against the social media presence of other port authorities, and I'm pleased to report we're holding our own – we're getting more engagement than any other regional port in WA. We're also getting some great interaction on LinkedIn. If you haven't followed our pages yet, please do!

We've been using social media to promote our sponsorship programme, and we're seeing some really good results from this. We've had a number of organisations reach out who we haven't worked with in the past.

If there's anything you think we need to know about what's going on in the community, or if people are asking you questions about what we're doing at the port, please let us know.

## **10. PCCC SCHEDULE**

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

In order to maintain the attendance of PCCC committee members, the next PCCC date was discussed – *Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021* was the scheduled date, however after discussion due to school holidays and members away, the next PCCC Meeting will be held:

- Wednesday 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

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

DS thanked Scott Bates for attending and opening sailing season at the Yacht Club.

DS to hold a meeting with CEO Steve Lewis next week, to provide information and vision for the marina redevelopment, which could prove beneficial for the town in a number of ways.

BT made comment that all accommodation, caravan parks and the overflow show grounds are completely booked out for the Christmas period. The Shire are considering opening up Newtown Football oval to accommodate additional overflow. Further to this, Woolworths is closed 4 out of the 6 days over Christmas as extended trading hours were not offered on this occasion.

Apex Tours – Currently sitting with Corporate Affairs Advisor and updates will be provided when we have further information on when tours will recommence.

## **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

PCCC Members thanked TA for providing an in-depth presentation of ERT.

**Meeting Closed:** 18:48 hours

**Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2021