



## ALBANY PORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of Meeting  
Tuesday 28 January 2020, 5:00pm

Port of Albany, Board Room  
85 Brunswick Road, ALBANY

### PRESENT:

#### Committee members:

|                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Chair                         | Chris Gunby       |
| Deputy Chair                  | Simon Lyas        |
| Community Representatives     | Jane Mouritz      |
|                               | Ian Moss          |
|                               | Leanne Marsden    |
|                               | Neil Worrell      |
|                               | Anthony Moir      |
|                               | Christine Kershaw |
|                               | Geoff Bastyan     |
| City of Albany representative | Andrew Sharpe     |

#### Southern Port (SP):

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| CEO                           | Steve Lewis    |
| Chief Operating Officer       | Keith Wilkes   |
| Board Representative          | Julie-Ann Gray |
| Regional Manager              | Gary Crockford |
| Environment Manager           | Paul Mackey    |
| Environment Officer (Minutes) | Rachael Goetze |

### APOLOGIES:

Noel Chambers  
Tony Harrison

#### Item 1 Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting at 5:00pm and welcomed the committee, the new Regional Manager Gary Crockford and Chief Operating Officer Keith Wilkes. Members and new staff undertook a round table to introduce themselves and provide a brief background.

#### Potential conflicts of interest

It is noted that existing members whose tenure is up for renewal would not be able to participate in discussions relating to their own nomination.

#### Records of attendance / apologies

Apologies were noted.

## **Item 2 Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meetings held on 27 November 2020 were agreed as being a true and correct record. Two apologies were omitted from the 27 November minutes, including Simon Lyas and Christine Kershaw. The minutes will be amended.

**Moved:** *Jane Mouritz*

## **Item 3 Matter arising from previous minutes**

Several questions were raised regarding the status of the South Coast Aquaculture Development Zones. Internally, the Board has approved the framework and head lease aspects, however, the proposed areas will be risk assessed with invites extended to the PCCC. To the Port's knowledge there are no new maps, only the original ones which were previously released to the public.

The Port is still in the process of preparing the Aquaculture Risk Assessment, with the aim of having invites out within the next few weeks. All PCCC members are welcome to participate.

## **Item 4 Business for discussion**

### **New and renewing PCCC membership applications**

The Chair acknowledged the meeting would be the last for three members, Deputy Chair Simon Lyas, member Jane Mouritz and member Anthony Moir. Each member has contributed valuably to the committee and been great ambassadors for the group. Simon Lyas has been Deputy Chair for four years, and his help over this time has been greatly appreciated. The committee thanked all three members for their time and contribution.

A table (Attachment 1) was presented to the committee detailing application summaries for new and existing members seeking renewal. A sub-committee met previously to streamline the process and assess the skills and areas of expertise of each applicant. It was noted that the Chair was seeking an applicant with regional development interest in light of the departure of the Deputy Chair Simon Lyas. Though it was not detailed in the application form, one new applicant is on the Board of the Chamber of Commerce, which could assist to fill the void left by the Deputy Chair.

The Chair recommended approvals be undertaken in blocks rather than on an individual basis with the first block relating to renewals, and the second new applications. It was reaffirmed that members up for renewal would be unable to comment or vote in relation to their application. It was noted that there is limited female applications despite efforts of the Chair and members to encourage a more gender balanced committee.

**Recommendation: That existing members Geoff Bastyan, Neil Worrell, Tony Harrison and Leanne Marsden are renewed for a period of two years.**

**Moved:** *Jane Mouritz*                      **Seconded:** *Ian Moss*

**Recommendation: That five new applicants comprising Dennis Beere, Jamie Hodgkinson, Shaun Higgins and Dr William (Michael) Hunter are appointed for a period of one year. That one new applicant, Michael Lane is rejected due to a duplication of skills and location.**

**Moved:** *Neil Worrell*                      **Seconded:** *Anthony Moir*

The Committee membership will move to a total of 13 members plus the City of Albany ex-officio position.

## Terms of Reference

The Chair raised concerns relating to the selection process, stating that the criteria did not tie in well with the Committee's terms of reference. An example was the statement relating to applicants having to be located in close proximity to the Port, which is not compatible to the Port's larger trade catchment (i.e grain and farming communities). There was a strong consensus that both the criteria and the terms of reference could be improved via a review with input from the Committee.

**Jane Mouritz left the meeting 5.30pm**

***Recommendation: That the concerns relating to the selection process, criteria and Terms of Reference be brought to the attention of the Southern Ports Board with a request for the Committee to be given an opportunity to provide input to the review.***

## Nominate New Deputy Chair

The Chair proposed that member Noel Chambers was appointed Deputy Chair. Noel had expressed interest in the position and would accept the role providing it was endorsed by the Committee.

***Recommendation: That member Noel Chambers be appointed as Deputy Chair***

***Moved: Andrew Sharpe            Seconded: Neil Worrell***

## Landscape and access between Port and Town Centre with regards to cruise ship visitation

The Chair recently walked the route from the Port to the Town Centre which is used by cruise ship visitors. The route is disjointed and exposed and those unfamiliar with the area would most likely have difficulty navigating and finding the correct paths. There is also an opportunity to improve the landscaping of the route which for segments goes through the industrial area.

The Chair opened the topic up for comment among the committee members. Suggestions included:

- Providing a single, continuous path with 'footprints' to indicate the route;
- Providing a map that is easy to interpret to passengers as they depart the Port;
- Developing signposting which includes the distance and direction similar to that of Lake Seppings;
- Allowing the area to continue to develop with facilities such as the new hotel drawing visitors;
- Including the project as part of the Albany team's Sustainability initiative and presenting ideas back to the PCCC.
- Longer term including a path network to link the Mounts, Middleton Beach, the Port and the Town Centre.

The Regional Manager updated the group regarding a meeting last week with the UWA School of Architecture. The Port is aiming to engage architecture students in relation to a number of projects, including the landscaping between the Port and the Town Centre.

It was suggested that the Port liaise with the university, develop some concept plans and present to the PCCC for guidance and feedback. Committee members are welcome to be involved in the process, and participate in any future meetings.

***Action: The Port to contact the UWA School of Architecture as well as other key stakeholders including the City of Albany, Department of Transport and Main Roads.***

**Item 5 Trade Facilitation, Port Development and Supply Chain Update**  
**Gary Crockford**

The new Regional Manager Gary Crockford introduced himself to the committee and provided a brief background of his experience and working career. Gary has spent a significant portion of his working career in mining and mineral sands, particularly in regional areas along the West Coast of Tasmania, the Hunter Valley and more recently in Bunbury. He has been involved in Ports for some time, and was previously the CEO of the former Bunbury Port Authority. During this time, Gary also acted as CEO for six months at the Albany Port Authority and was heavily involved in responding to the Atlantic Eagle incident in 2008. Currently Gary is studying a masters in supply chain.

The community, lifestyle and environmental aspects of the Albany region attracted Gary to the position and he is looking forward to being involved in the sustainability initiative. Gary has been in his role for six weeks now, and has enjoyed meeting stakeholders and learning how the Port operates. Since the last meeting, the Port has facilitated a shipment of biomass pellets via QUBE and the use of rotor boxes. While the loading rate is particularly slow, the shipment was a success in terms of environmental impacts, with limited dust and noise generated.

Gary was asked if the role of Regional Manager would involve community engagement and the development of strategies. While Gary is currently still putting names to faces, he will be involved and would like to develop a strategy for the Port to assist the hinterland and greater catchment bring products to the Port.

**Item 6 Environment Management update**  
**Paul Mackey**

State Marine Parks for the South Coast are back on the Government's agenda. Early engagement with key stakeholders has begun and is being led by the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). The aim is to establish a marine park on the South Coast by the year 2025, somewhere between Augusta and the South Australian border. The official process will commence in March this year and at this stage draft proposals containing physical areas/maps are yet to be developed.

Member Tony Harrison visited this morning and dropped off concepts for a mural across the front of the Transit Shed. Paul thanked Tony for his efforts.

**Item 7 Strategic Projects Update**  
**Steve Lewis**

The CEO Steve Lewis provided an update on staff changes within the organisation. The Board will welcome a new Chair in Mr Ian Shepherd with effect from 1 February 2020. Mr Shepherd is an engineer with 40 years of experience and was the Chief Executive of the major consultancy company GHD between 2008 and 2016. Mr Shepherd will take over from the current Chair Mr Rob Cole. Rob Cole was in the role for four years and has been a good Chair for Southern Ports particularly in relation to governance.

The Committee thanked Mr Cole for the improvements made to the Port over the past 12 months, particularly through the appointment of the current CEO and the change in strategic direction to empower the regions.

The Board will also welcome another new member in Ms Jane Cutler, the former National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) CEO. Ms Cutler will fill the vacancy left by Mr Gary Wood, who had been on the Bunbury and Southern Ports Boards for a total of 14 years.

In relation to the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), Keith Wilkes has started his role as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and will be based in Bunbury. Simon Gavin has also commenced as the Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) and is based here in Albany. Rob Alexander has been appointed the General Manager of Port Development based in Esperance, while Monica Birkner has been appointed as the General Manager

Sustainability based in Bunbury. Both Rob and Monica will commence on the 10th of February, and the first full ELT meeting will be held on the 18th February.

All Regional Managers have also now been appointed. Joining Gary Crockford as Regional Manager Albany will be Scott Bates as Regional Manager Esperance and Lee Smith as Regional Manager Bunbury.

The Communications role has also been filled with the appointment of Tori Castledine based in Esperance commencing on the 10th of February.

The Committee commented that it was refreshing to see so many executives being appointed based in the regions, and it would help grow and empower the individual Ports.

Q: What is the approach for sustainability as it relates to the environment, for example in terms of greenhouse gases etc.?

A: It is early days in terms of what we can commit to, but the team in Albany are looking at a range of things to trial and/or experiment with. At the moment we want to focus on understanding not just our footprint, but the whole Port precinct, and then look at what opportunities there might be. The Port is hosting a Sustainability workshop with Port users on the 5th February to ascertain some more information and ideas.

Q: Will the Marine Environment Protection Committee's (MEPC) recommendations relating to sulphur fuel content and scrubbers effect any visitation of ships to Port? And does the Port have any role in determining compliance?

A: The international conventions came into force on 1st January 2020 and as a result the requirement for meet the 0.50% limit on sulphur in fuel oil has commenced. Some vessels opt to utilise a low sulphur fuel, while others choose to utilise the use of open or closed loop scrubbers to ensure compliance. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority is establishing an official position. The Port is watching the developments closely, but is not the direct regulator and will continue to monitor the situation to see how the regulations are managed at both a Commonwealth and State level. As the Port is not the regulator, only AMSA can determine compliance, however we can assist in providing information if required. The port is alert, not alarmed and does not anticipate any negative impact to ship visitation.

## **Item 8 Media Report**

The media report was attached to the agenda, but was yet to be circulated via email to the Committee. The media report will be emailed with the draft minutes.

## **Item 9 Member Discussion/Feedback and Community Questions**

The Deputy Chair thanked the Port for the tour which was given to the Regional Development Australia Board in November and recommended it to any members or committees that hadn't previously undertaken one.

It was proposed that alternative locations be considered for future PCCC meetings, providing they were suitable in terms of technology. The Princess Royal Sailing Club was suggested and the Port is open to hosting the meeting elsewhere.

The City of Albany provided an update on the artificial surf reef project which has now gone to the detailed design stage. This will include detailed costings and requirements for approvals and ensuring the project is 'shovel ready' in the lead up to the March 2021 election. The Middleton Beach Foreshore Enhancement Project is also underway.

Q: Was the Port able to facilitate the unloading/loading of granite rocks for the surf reef?

A: While it was determined that the Berth would be unsuitable due to loading limits, the Port has committed to accommodate an alternative loading arrangement that involves using the seawall and a ramp option, for example.

A member had also had discussions with CBH Albany Zone Manager Adam Wray relating to the potential use of larger vessels with a draft beyond 12m. The Port is aware of this concept, and has been working with CBH to determine dredging requirements, potential costs etc. There is a significant amount of complexity around the idea, given the demand for smaller parcel sizes, logistics and the current infrastructure utilised.

Q: Will the Port be looking at potentially undertaking containerisation?

A: The Port is open to all new trade possibilities, but containerisation is not currently on the horizon.

#### **Item 10 Items for future discussion/presentation**

The Chair suggested that communications be the topic for the May meeting including what the Port is doing, what the methodologies are and how the PCCC can contribute.

#### **Item 11 Any other business**

No other business.

#### **Meeting closed 6.35pm**

**Next meeting: 18 March 2020 – Meet and greet Southern Ports Board members, followed by a Port tour.**