



ALBANY PORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday 22 September 2020, 5:00pm
Port of Albany, Board Room
85 Brunswick Road, ALBANY

PRESENT:

Committee members:

Chair	Chris Gunby
Community Representatives	Graeme Foster Ian Moss Dennis Beere Geoff Bastyan
City of Albany representative	Andrew Sharpe

Southern Port (SP):

CEO	Steve Lewis (via Teams)
Chief Operating Officer	Keith Wilkes
GM Sustainability	Monica Birkner
Corporate Affairs Advisor	Tori Castledine
Regional Manager	Gary Crockford
Environment Manager	Paul Mackey
Office Coordinator (Minutes)	Denise Fisher

APOLOGIES:

Noel Chambers
Tony Harrison
Leanne Marsden
Michael Hunter
Shaun Higgins

Item 1 Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting at 5:00pm and welcomed the committee and Southern Ports (SP) employees. The committee and staff undertook a round table to introduce themselves and provide a brief background.

SP received an email this morning from Jamie Hodgkinson resigning from the PCCC.

Note: The committee noted Jamie Hodgkinson's resignation.

Potential conflicts of interest

No conflicts of interest were noted.

Records of attendance / apologies

Apologies were noted.

Item 2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meetings held on 28th January 2020 were agreed as being a true and correct record.

Moved: Andrew Sharpe

Second: Ian Moss

Item 3 Matter arising from previous minutes

Public Interface update

Albany Port have been working with the City of Albany on placing a Starboard green buoy at the walkway near the Pilot Cottage. In memory of Jason Wos, a Mossie buoy, bench seat and landscaping have been established at the entrance to gate 1.

Planning on the interface between the port and the City of Albany is ongoing.

SP are in discussion with UWA Architect Summer School in regard to a concept design for the pilot cottages.

SCADZ update

In June 2020 Southern Ports held a SCADZ Risk Assessment meeting with relevant PCCC members facilitated by GHD. The assessment has been endorsed by the Southern Ports Board and the maps for the port waters agreed with DPIRD. There was a recent announcement with aquaculture areas released around Oyster Harbour, which is outside the port waters. Negotiations relating to areas within port waters are still ongoing with DPIRD.

Chris Gunby acknowledged the committees input and SP recognition of concerns.

Members were critical of the public consultation with regards to SCADZ, but noted this was not the responsibility of SP or the PCCC.

Item 4 Business for discussion COVID-19

Gary Crockford presented a power point on Port of Albany COVID-19 update.

Southern Ports COVID response objectives are to:

- Keep our employees safe
- Keep the port open
- Keep the community safe
- and maintain general alignment with WA State Government 'phase' of response.

Southern Ports general observations are:

- Albany has escaped the first wave. It is not a matter of 'when' but 'if' COVID returns to WA. Remaining vigilant and not becoming complacent is the biggest challenge.
- Southern Ports have developed an Epidemic and Pandemic Action Plan. We are remaining at stage 2/3 of the plan, in standby/response stage.
- Southern Ports have put in a 14 day minimum duration, since last international contact for vessels before the pilot goes on board. The pilots do a final confirmation with the vessel for no COVID/illness signs before boarding. The federal agencies have put out a PPE guideline for pilots. The pilots only attend work for vessel movements.
- Ships crew are not allowed of the vessel, unless it is for draft survey where they are required to have full PPE. Stevedores only board the vessel if necessary. They are encouraged to have full PPE, the ships crew are to be in a different area with no close contact.
- Albany Port recently purchased a Seafarer Connect WIFI modem through the Tas Bull Seafarers Foundation. It will be deployed this week for the ships crew to use, allowing them to access the internet and contact home.
- During the initial COVID wave, the coxswains and deckhands were separated out of the general workforce. The rest of the Albany workforce were split into two teams, with one team working from home.
- There have been modifications around the administration office with the front inner door being locked, and a glass enclosure installed around reception. A focus on hygiene with an extra midday cleaning regime added. Hand sanitizer has been installed at the front entrance to the administration building. During the initial wave, as far as we could, we designated one vehicle per person and introduced cleaning/wiping the vehicle when leaving.

Andrew Sharpe left the meeting at 5.35pm, see Item 9 for the CoA update presented earlier in the meeting.

The WA State Government is using time wisely to ensure seaports don't become a vector for COVID introduction. A strong pratique process is in place.

The Department of Health is co-ordinating and assisting regional areas in preparing for a COVID testing of crew members. There has been a lot of work in WA between government agencies to ensure there is not a slip up. If someone is reported as ill on board a vessel, a biosecurity officer will do a risk assessment and liaise with other government agencies to develop an action plan. The port will be under direction of the Department of Health.

Q: If a crew member has tested positive at a port prior to Albany Port, does this port get told?

A: If in Australia waters yes. It is likely the vessel would be held at the previous port.

Q: How many vessels visit Albany that have come from overseas?

A: 70% of vessels are from various overseas locations.

The meeting discussed the above questions.

Q: When the WA state moves to phase 5, what changes?

A: Nothing changes for SP, we will continue our safeguards for as long as we need to.

Q: Is there a level of community interest and phone calls regarding COVID?

A: There was initially in the height of the pandemic with cruise ships and a couple of queries regarding the mission buses in town and reporting of potential crew members.

Q: What happens if a crew member requires emergency evacuation?

A: If a person is emergency evacuated from a vessel they are treated as COVID positive, until a negative test has been received.

The WA State Government has initiated three programs in the last three weeks specifically ensuring our state borders are secure.

- Workshops between health and department ports. All three of SP have been involved.
- Audit through WAPOL to ensure SP are undertaking adequate controls.
- Voluntary COVID testing program for port worker who have direct interaction with overseas crew.

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

Albany Port is planning for a port open day on the ANZAC long weekend in 2021. This will be COVID dependent and a free ticketed event, so we can track attendees and control numbers (COVID safe). We will engage with port users to participate in static displays and are waiting on a reply from the Navy to see if a vessel can attend, this will determine the actual date.

Plantation Energy are exporting biofuel wood pellets by rotaboxes. The pellets are loaded at their facility and transported to the port by truck. Using the ships crane the containers are lifted over the hatch, rotated and tipped into the hatch. This is a slow process. SP are working with Plantation Energy to put reinforcing mesh on the berth to enable load distribution to facilitate loading with a mobile loader.

Q: The incident at Beirut. How relevant is that to Albany Port?

A: Currently Albany Port does not have licence to handle dangerous goods. We do not have ammonia nitrate through Albany Port. Current dangerous goods holders are the fuel imports with diesel through a pipe line licence and Caltex site for the tank storage.

Item 6 Environment Management update **Paul Mackey**

Sustainability

Albany Port installed 20kw solar power system on the administration roof in July.

Capital expenditure has been approved to purchase an electric 1-tonne utility for use in the secure zone for the operational teams.

Q: Is there an objective to producing your own power?

A: The energy offset is less than 5 years. More broadly, the State Government has an objective to be carbon neutral by 2050, which is the ultimate goal. SP has money budgeted this year for more solar/wind power for the port.

Item 7 Strategic Projects Update **Steve Lewis**

Last year's strategic direction has bought the Master Planning forward. Albany's will commence in December this year. The Master Planning will be a consultative process with input and engagement with the community and port users. Master Planning is generally a 30-50 year plan and a 10-15 year investment program for the government to weave into Infrastructure WA.

SP are looking at the strategy of the port and linking the port into tourism, including 2026 bicentenary.

The Board Directors are in Albany tomorrow for the Board meeting and Stakeholder Function. It is also an opportunity for the Directors to visit the port and look around.

The meeting discussed Master Planning and the PCCC being involved. Steve Lewis suggested looking at Mid West Ports Master Plan which was finalised last year and is now a public document online.

Note: Discussion on the Albany Port Master Plan to be a likely item for discussion at the February PCCC meeting.

Item 8 Media Report

Tori Castledine gave an overview of the relevant media coverage of the last couple of months. Media releases and updates are now distributed to the committee members via email in real time, Tori queried the committee if they would like to still receive the media report document at each meeting.

Note: Committee members agreed to keep receiving the media report document for each meeting.

Action: Denise to email the latest media report to PCCC members with draft minutes.

Southern Ports Annual Report was tabled in Parliament today. Tori will email a link to the Annual Report to the PCCC later this week.

Action: Tori to email Annual Report web site link to PCCC members.

Since COVID-19 the PCCC members have been receiving emails regarding SP response to COVID-19. Updates will be emailed if there are any changes.

SP has commenced a Facebook page, which has had good community engagement. It is a different way for SP to engage with our regional communities.

Item 9 Member Discussion/Feedback and Community Questions

9.1 Andrew Sharpe gave an update for the City of Albany (CoA) prior to departing the meeting at 5:35pm due to a council meeting being held.

- The CoA is preparing for the State Government election in March 2021
- The renovated Town Hall will officially open in the new year. This will be a great community space.
- The CoA received support from the State Government to fund the Middleton Beach swimming enclosure. It is anticipated the new enclosure to be installed in December.

- Coastal erosion has been a concern over the recent months. There is a presentation tomorrow with an Emu Point group, when coastal protection and adaptation will be discussed.
- Official opening of the Albany Ring Road will be on Wednesday, 23 September 2020. Andrew Sharpe suggested Main Roads present an update on the project at the November PCCC meeting.
- The Hilton Hotel on the waterfront is expecting to open in the first quarter of next calendar year.
- CoA are looking at bringing the art installation, Sculptures by the Sea, to Albany potentially over a 5 year period. This will require corporate sponsorship to get it up and running.
- The Artificial Surf Reef Detailed Design will be going before the Council at tonight's Council meeting. The construction is will be dependent on funding.
- Two of Albany's tennis clubs have resolved to amalgamate and move to a dedicated facility.

9.2 A committee member queried if the PCCC get to have a look at the ports budget, particularly in the tourism sector for Albany. Previously the PCCC have not had access to the budget as it contains confidential information. SP will consider the question, but it is unlikely that it will be possible.

9.3 A committee member queried about the renewal of PCCC memberships and the process. The meeting discussed the process of membership expiries and renewals.

9.4 Q: Does the port have any idea when we will see cruise ships back visiting Albany?

A: The Federal Government has cancelled all cruise ship visits in Australia until the end of December this year. They do book cruise ship visits up to 3 years in advance. At this stage as the dates get closer, they are cancelling their visit.

Item 10 Items for future discussion/presentation

It was proposed that communications would be the topic for discussion at our November meeting. This to be a general overview and strategic in nature, to include consideration of objectives, audiences and means of communication, and the role the PCCC might play

Item 11 Any other business

No other business.

Meeting closed: 6.25pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, 25 November 2020