

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

Date: Wednesday, 03 November 2021

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

Time: 1700 hours

Attendees:	Stephen Francis	Committee Member & PCCC Chair
	Stephen Schmedje	Committee Member & PCCC Deputy Chair
	Simon Gribble	Committee Member
	Malcolm Heasman	Committee Member
	David Swan	Committee Member
	Pia Powell	Committee Member
	Kris Starceвич	Committee Member
	Frank Roe	Committee Member
	Wayne Walter	Committee Member
	Steve Lewis	CEO, Southern Ports
	Robert Alexander	GM Port Development, Southern Ports
	Scott Bates	Regional Manager, SP Esperance
	Alex Leonard	Environment Manager, SP Esperance
	Tori Castledine	Corporate Affairs Advisor, SP
	Michelle Spicer	Committee Secretary, SP Esperance
Apologies:	Keith Wilks	COO, Southern Ports

Meeting opened by Chairperson Stephen Francis (SF) at 17:05 hours, who welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending.

Apologies were noted.

1. WELCOME NEW PCCC MEMBERS

New committee members, Pia Powell, Kris Starceвич, Frank Roe and Wayne Walter were introduced and welcomed.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kris noted his role as CEO of Goldfields Esperance Development Commission.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 19 MAY 2021

The minutes of the previous Committee meeting held on 4 August 2021 were noted as approved via circular resolution on 31 August 2021. The circular resolution is affirmed by the committee.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Dust Monitoring video now on the Southern Ports website. Any feedback is welcomed.

5. COVID-19 UPDATE

Scott Bates (SB) spoke to the written report provided to PCCC members prior to meeting:

State Government Mandatory Vaccination

The State Government made vaccines available to port workers as part of Phase 1a and 1b of the vaccination roll out which commenced in February 2021.

In September 2021, the State Government announced the *Exposed Port Worker Directives* – effectively requiring all Port employees who may interact with ship crew to be fully vaccinated by Friday 12 November 2021. The deadline for these employees to receive their first vaccination was by Friday 15 October 2021, and Southern Ports has fully complied with this directive.

In October 2021, the State Government announced a staged mandatory vaccination requirement for 75% of the State's workforce. "Remaining Port Operations" was included in Group 2, required to be fully vaccinated by 31 January 2022. We will continue to adhere to all State Government directives, as we always have.

Further discussion around recent Mine Site vaccination mandates and the logistics of the port gathering this information on all third parties that hold an access card to Esperance Port, which is a registered mine site. We are confident the security system and team we have in place to identify unvaccinated port users prior to entering LRZ zone will ensure Southern Ports are compliant with governmental mandates.

Cruise Ships

The Federal Government ban on International cruise ships remains in place until December 2021. If they decided to lift the ban, as opposed to continue to extend it, cruise ships entering WA from outside the State wouldn't be able to recommence until the State Government open up the borders, which we expect won't be until 2022.

We are working with cruise industry bodies and stakeholders to help support our communities prior to any recommencement of cruise shipping.

Continuing COVID-19 Response Measure

Southern Ports continues to follow all State and Federal advice when interacting with international vessels.

The Federal Department of Agriculture administers the Australian Quarantine system and they determine if a vessel can enter Australia after performing health screening of the vessel and crew – this system is called Pratique.

If there are concerns from the screening process, the Department of Agriculture consult with WA Health Human Biosecurity Officers to determine the next steps. This occurs prior to entry of the vessel.

Once alongside the movement of seafarers is tightly restricted to the vessel while in port under WAPol Emergency Directions – Maritime Crew Member Directions.

The protocols for Port Workers boarding vessels to perform their work is also set out and enforced through the WAPol Emergency Directions – Exposed On-Board Worker Directions.

Various other preventative measures advised from WA Health and other federal agencies such as Australian Border Force and Department of Health is also followed.

These Directions, Protocols and Preventative measures are all publicly available on government websites <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/covid-19-coronavirus-travel-and-border-state-wide#miscellaneous>.

PPE directions remain in force and are embedded into our working procedures.

Due to its distance from major international trading ports, ships generally arrive in Esperance around 14 days from their last overseas port. If a ship arrives prior to that Southern Ports will not allocate an entry time until 14 days has elapsed.

Southern Ports has been extremely diligent in our response to COVID-19, and all vessels are treated as if they potentially have COVID 19 onboard, as we continue to protect our staff, protect our communities and keep trade moving to support regional jobs.

6. TRADE FACILITATION & SUPPLY CHAIN UPDATE

Scott Bates (SB) provided an update on current trade and new trade opportunities for Port of Esperance:

Trade remains steady with potential growth in grain, woodchips and particularly spodumene.

Esperance has a large catchment zone which provides potential for future discussions around nickel and spodumene. SP Port Development team continue to work on capacity modelling for future trade, in particular Berth 3.

Investigations are being made into various supply chains and optimisation opportunities for the Port, as the only cape size berth in the southern part of Australia.

There has been some very early discussion around the potential generation of hydrogen in Esperance and export requirements.

With the recent success facilitating the wind turbine infrastructure for the Shark Lake Renewable Energy Project, the port demonstrated it can handle cargo and an operation of that scale and has prompted further enquiries.

7. PORT DEVELOPMENT/PROJECTS UPDATE

Rob Alexander (RA) spoke to the written report provided to the PCCC prior to the meeting:

Projects:

Strong start to works around the port this FY

- *Berth 2 hard stand temporary works* – this area now more user friendly with less risk and the port has received positive feedback from port users
- *Container hardstand adjacent to Berth 2* – project complete
- *Decommissioning of old Nickel Circuit* – project complete
- *Internal sealing of roads* – project has commenced, contractors now on site through until February, March 2022
- *Power Station* – installing cabling and transformers to hook up to power

Master Planning

RA provided an update and [Presentation](#) on Master Planning:

Master Planning provides positive long term strategic vision and will guide and facilitate future developments for the port to understand what we need to do to meet the different trade scenarios,

which provides benefit for the community with forward planning. The port Master Plan outlines the expected trade scenarios for the next thirty years, providing infrastructure solutions to meet the forecast trade.

Discussion around the pathway to gain relevant approvals and factors to consider prior to any potential expansion or items included in master planning, including subjection to any modelling studies undertaken in the future to prevent potential adverse effects to land or sea.

Overall, the Master Plan provides a positive picture for the Port of Esperance. There are some good investments to maximise the infrastructure we already have, and opportunities to expand to meet new trade bases such as renewable energies.

RA encouraged all to provide feedback via the channels provided.

Further discussion around transport infrastructure to support the Master Plan. In 2020 a supply chain study was done, and currently a port optimisation study is being done and overseen by Minister for Ports, which will take 3-4 months and will look at all supply chains for all ports.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Alex Leonard (AL) spoke to the written report provided to the PCCC prior to the meeting:

Iron Ore Dust

A Dust Working Group has been established with MRL to progress increased dust controls at the mine site and the Port.

Mine Site Actions:

- Water spray upgrades completed on conveyors downstream of the crusher
- Investigations being conducted on any train wagons arriving at the Port containing dusty iron ore.
- Adding more details in the Train Loading Reports to forewarn the Port of dusty ore heading down the track

Port Actions:

- Trialling new system of automating conditioner and water sprays that will be expanded throughout the system if successful.
- Installation of new water sprays. Fabrication to be completed mid-December and installation early 2022. The new sprays will give the Port capacity to raise the moisture of the ore between 0.8% to 1.5% depending on load rate. Optimum moisture is typically around 4-5%.
- Finalised template for dust complaint investigation following review by expert geochemist.
- Sealing of gravel (approx. 5% iron) roads commencing November 2021

Sulphur

A quantitative risk assessment of fires and explosions of sulphur and ammonium nitrate at the storage on the Summit lease have been completed by GHD. The analyses indicate the operational risks are below the one in a million criteria to cause serious harm or injury. However, further improvements in risk management are currently under discussion.

Biosecurity

No updates since previous meeting.

Contaminated Sites

No updates since previous meeting.

State Marine Reserves:

The Port was represented at the recent Community consultation by the state government DBCA/DPIRD at the Esperance Bay Yacht Club on 14 October. Information was broadly around the principles and benefits of marine parks and working with Tjaltjraak to manage the reserves. Areas of interest were flagged but no lines on the sand drawn yet on where these parks, particularly the Sanctuary zones would go. During the 2 hours of presentation all questions from the attendees were received using an online system "Google Menti".

The final areas selected will be likely based on consultation with the community and the science that looks to be scant. The consultation will be ongoing over the next two years with the reserves being opened in February 2024, a date set by the premier. How big and where look to be the remaining questions as it seems inevitable it will happen. As stated from previous discussions with DBCA I do not have any significant concerns in relation to the Port. But it has significant implications to fishers in the region affecting recreational and commercial fishermen.

Environmental data management system

Expected to go live in early 2022 that will help automate and create prompts for uploading and managing laboratory results as well as creating COC's for samples sent for laboratory analysis.

New Business:

- New initiatives identified from participating in the Environmental Research sub-committee for Ports Australia that involved a review of international initiatives relating to vessel GHG and noise emissions. Worth exploring a suitable Shipping Incentive Scheme further at the Ports WA level towards adopting across WA Ports to encourage cleaner vessels. Internationally, the focus is firmly on GHG emissions which is very different from Australia, particularly WA.

Discussion held around the release of ballast water. There are strict protocols in place including mandatory exchange which takes place in international waters therefore eliminating any risk. International waters are 200 nautical miles offshore.

Scott Bates left the meeting.

9. STRATEGIC PROJECTS UPDATE

Steve Lewis (SL) provided a presentation on strategic direction, which covered the following topics:

2022

- Delivery of systems we have been developing and asset management work will come to fruition.
- COVID19 will bring challenges when it enters WA. The port will introduce any new protocols necessary and could mean a different working environment which could bring some disruptions.
- Master Planning will be finalised in early 2022 for Esperance, Bunbury and Albany.
- Increasing customer coordination at the corporate level.
- Asset Management system will provide huge benefits across Southern Ports and will lead into a good strategic asset plan for government to identify what investments are needed in each port.
- Supply Chain work improvements - more information to come late 2022.
- Sustainability program will include all elements and is a critical part of our plank.
- Green Ports – working with environmental and sustainability departments aiming to create the right environment for ships.
- Strategic planning for 2023 will be presented in the new year.
- Smart Port initiatives remain a focus.
- Commitment to training and development.
- New accounting and shipping systems implementation.

- Full digitalisation.

10. CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE

Tori Castledine (TC) spoke to the written report provided to the PCCC prior to the meeting.

Media Coverage

Media coverage relevant to Southern Ports and the Esperance Port over the past three months centred on:

- Coverage of events and projects we've recently sponsored, such as the Esperance Agricultural Show
- Challenges with the agricultural industry, including supply chain issues and potential impacts on this year's harvest
- Increased iron ore trade from Mineral Resources

Social Media

Southern Ports has been engaging on social media for 12 months, and engagement on both Facebook and LinkedIn continues to grow.

- We now have 1841 Facebook followers and 2056 LinkedIn followers
 - It's been exciting to see our LinkedIn presence grow, as our staff and industry colleagues engage with our content
- In the last quarter we had a page reach (how many times your page's content is seen in feeds) of 48,140 on Facebook and made 52,539 impressions on LinkedIn
- We've identified that on LinkedIn a minimum of two posts per week provides optimal engagement
- Our Facebook page generated a noticeable increase in traffic to our website this quarter, with more than double the amount of people visiting the website through Facebook than the previous quarter
- We ran a general awareness advertising campaign on Facebook this quarter, which stimulated increased engagement with our page
- Our Facebook demographics this quarter are:
 - 45.5% men and 54.50% women
 - A slight evening up of gender balance from the last quarter
 - Over 30% of our followers are between the ages of 35 and 54
 - Top locations of our followers:
 - Bunbury – 475 followers
 - Esperance – 347 followers
 - Albany – 309 followers
 - Perth – 185 followers
- Our engagement on LinkedIn was supported by tags from IGO, Women in Maritime and Svitzer Australia

Sponsorship

Recently we've provided sponsorship and community support to a number of local organisations, including:

- Rotary Club of Esperance's Driving Simulator project to support young driver education
- Esperance Theatre Guild, supporting their purchase of a digital piano for theatrical use
- Esperance Land Based Fishing Club 2021 Fishing Classic
- Esperance 2021 Agricultural Show
- Ravensthorpe Equestrian Club 2021 Annual Two Day Gymkhana

Community Investment Program

A short [Presentation](#) was made at the meeting regarding Southern Ports rebranded sponsorship program. The Southern Ports *Community Investment Program* will officially launch on 1 January 2022.

The program focuses on our vision - strong regional ports, strong regions, and will continue to invest in projects that will revitalise, build and strengthen the region. Applications will be accepted quarterly which will assist with streamlined administration processes and give a greater

oversight at where support is needed. Applications will now be reviewed by a committee made up of; Regional Manager, PCCC representative, Corporate Affairs Advisor and a SP staff representative. Please find more information on the [Southern Ports](#) website.

Discussion was held around the new program.

11. MEMBER DISCUSSION/FEEDBACK & COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Mini rail train at Adventure Land Park looking to increase safety around the area. Alex to pass on to SP safety team for further input.

Discussion was held on the towage tender recently awarded in Bunbury, and the extended contract in Esperance.

Discussion around sealing of internal roads. RA confirmed vast majority of gravel roads will be sealed and catchment filtering systems will remain in place. Discussion was had around the noticeable reduction in dust at the port. It was asked if there is a way to differentiate if the dust is coming into the port from public roads or inside the port. This is near impossible as dust is dust. When internal port roads are sealed it will be more obvious if dust is coming in from outside.

Esperance Bay Marina funding received. DS thanked Southern Ports for their support in getting this over the line.

Discussion was held about supporting seafarers. Southern Ports recently purchased wi-fi devices that allow for seafarers to access the internet when alongside the berth. Southern Ports also continues to provide support in other small ways, such as Easter hampers and recognising International Seafarers Day

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

Meeting Closed: 18:40 hours

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 1 February 2022