

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

Date: Tuesday, 1 February 2022

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

Time: 1700 hours

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

Meeting opened by Chairperson Stephen Francis (SF) at 17:08 hours, who welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending.

Apologies were noted. SF welcomed new Council Representative, Rob Horan.

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 19 MAY 2021

The minutes of the previous Committee meeting held on 3 November 2021 were noted as approved via circular resolution on 6 December 2021. The circular resolution is affirmed by the committee.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None

4. COVID-19 UPDATE

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

Border Opening Delayed

Southern Ports (SP) was preparing for the 5 February 2022 border opening, with the Pandemic Response Group and other internal planning groups meeting regularly. With the delay in reopening the borders, we now continue to manage our COVID-19 response on the current advice.

We continue to review the response measures we have in place regularly, which will include incorporating the revised re-opening plans as the WA Government releases further details over the coming weeks.

State Government Mandatory Vaccinations

Mandatory vaccination directives meant that the majority of our Southern Ports workforce, including all staff based in Esperance, were required to have received their first COVID-19 vaccination by 1 December 2021, and their second by 1 January 2022. This also applies to any contractors or users required to enter the Port Land Restricted Zone.

Our Office Coordinators, Security and HR teams have undertaken a significant amount of work to manage this process and obtain records of proof of vaccination. This will continue as mandated booster vaccinations have different date requirements.

Cruise Ships

The Federal Government ban on international cruise ships remains in place until 17 February 2022. 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.

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

Further discussion was held around:

- Revisiting protocols introduced in 2020 in preparation for boarder opening
- Boarder opening dates
- Second dose compliance and booster vaccination compliance within SP workforce and port users
- Multiple Covid clinics have been held on site for employees and port users
- Shore leave restrictions remain in place as per WAPOL directions
- Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) future availability and utilisation. SP will follow government directions regarding RAT testing
- Positive data received showing Seafarers' vaccination percentage is on the rise

5. TRADE FACILITATION & SUPPLY CHAIN UPDATE

SB provided an update on current trade and new trade opportunities for Port of Esperance:

Iron Ore – the market has been inconsistent however is expected to balance out. There has been discussion around potential opportunity for junior miners in the future.

Grain – very strong grain season, likely a record season.

Fertiliser – slow start to the season however forecast indicates trade will pick up.

Nickel/Sulphur – FQM conveyor facility fully commissioned at Shoemaker mine which will facilitate product flow and increase mine life.

Spodumene – trade and growth strong across Southern Ports.

Woodchips – Back in full production.

Due to current shortage of truck drivers, some customers are having problems transporting product.

There was further discussion held around:

- Iron Ore trade and pricing
- Spodumene methods of transport

6. PORT DEVELOPMENT/PROJECTS UPDATE

SB spoke to the below written report provided by the Port Development Team to the PCCC prior to meeting:

Projects:

Internal road sealing works – works almost complete

Shed 4 entrance road works – project has commenced

Power connection works – underway and completion expected early 2022 in line with the new power supply

Pile wrapping works – three-year program implemented

Breakwater repairs – works to commence mid-2022 utilising a local granite supplier

Further discussion was held around:

- Completion of demolition circuit and future utilisation of this area
- Master Plan future capacities, scenarios, and trade optimisation investment strategy
- Southern Ports sustainability plan to meet government policy of net zero emissions by 2050

Master Plan

Still available to view at the following link <https://www.southernports.com.au/poe-mpp>

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The below report was provided to PCCC Members prior to meeting, there were no further comments.

Continuing Items:

Iron Ore Dust Working Group

The Iron Ore Dust Working Group was established with MRL to investigate additional continuous improvement opportunities to an already established robust dust mitigation process. The following have been progressed since the previous meeting:

Mine Site:

- New updated Train Loading Reports to forewarn the Port
- Currently mixing ore taken from below groundwater with drier material prior to export

Port:

- Established robust new dust monitor for use inside the iron ore circuit
- Programmers scheduled for February to use output from dust monitors as a trigger to automate inloading water sprays downstream of the rail car dumper and eliminate reliance on manual activation
- Trial of two conditioners and water alone commencing to determine the most cost-effective treatment of dry ore

Biosecurity

No updates since previous meeting.

Contaminated Sites

During demolition of the nickel circuit the Port had limited sealed areas available for use as a laydown area. Despite an intensive clean down and robust inspection controls, the unsealed area (located in an isolated area behind shed 3) used for laydown became contaminated. A detailed survey is scheduled for April to better delineate the contamination and actions to remediate. The area is currently cordoned off with hazard tape preventing vehicular access to spread contaminated material.

State Marine Reserves:

The first Community Reference Committee took place 15-16 December for the proposed south marine park attended by DBCA, DPIRD, Tjaltjraak, community reference panel and specific stakeholders or Sector Advisory Groups (SAGs). The fishing and tourism sectors had their own SAGs. Conversations were targeted at the extent of the marine reserve, the principals and objectives of the reserves and the views of each Sector Advisory Group.

Alex Leonard represents the Port within the "Industry SAG" in the committee and gave a presentation that summarised initial discussions with DBCA/DPIRD that underlined the joint understanding that there would be minimal impact on Port operations despite the changes to the boundary of Port waters. The overall committee was also reminded of the Port's interest in Butty Head. The Ports interest in Butty Head as a contingency (unlikely) site of Port development has been previously lodged in consultation for the South Coast Marine Strategic Plan, Esperance Parks & Reserves Management Plan and the commonwealth marine reserve network that is located further offshore.

New Business:

Ports Australia: Presentation of the Ports work in noise modelling across the noise precinct and the benefits that have arisen from it was given to Ports Australia. The work was also submitted as a case study under the theme of Amenity Noise. Case studies of best practice from Australian Ports are being assembled in a landscape analysis across Australian Ports. The presentation will also be given to the WA Ports Environmental Working Group in February as there are other Ports interested in going along similar lines to Esperance in the approach, we have taken to managing noise via a Noise Approval supported by a noise model and a real time noise logger.

Pigeons: Increasing numbers of pigeons on-site has recently been identified. Discussions have been held between SPA & CBH to establish an effective strategy to control numbers.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PRESENTATION

Alex Leonard (AL), Environmental Manager, Esperance provided the PCCC with a presentation on ongoing required and voluntary environmental monitoring undertaken at the port.

- Dust (real time) including boundary and internal monitors used as early warning system
- Biosecurity surveyance/monitoring including introduced bees, mosquitos and marine pests
- Biosecurity facilities including washdown bays for containers and biosecurity waste
- Surveying of marine sediments
- Groundwater
- Noise (real time)
- Stormwater and wastewater

AL provided a further presentation on Quantitative Risk Assessment for Sulphur Operations and/or other dangerous goods which covered the following topics:

- National risk criteria
- Locations of inventory assessed including; sulphur, sulphur dioxide, natural gas, unleaded petrol and ammonium nitrate
- Risk modelling using consequence and likelihood estimation based on robust controls on handling and storage.
- The assessment concluded that the societal risk is well below the minimum risk criteria, demonstrating that a loss of containment events are not anticipated to result in significant off-site implications given the level of controls in place at the Port. However, a cost-benefit analysis will be undertaken of further increasing risk controls by installing infra-red cameras in the sulphur storage shed.

9. STRATEGIC PROJECTS UPDATE

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

- Focus remains around trade facilitation and supply chain management for the future. SP working with Department of Transport to ensure any future investment will facilitate trade
- Implementation of a new HR, payroll, and operations system (Enterprise Resource Planning) which will facilitate flow of data through the business enabling monitoring of operating efficiencies.
- Digital Ports Strategy due in June 2022 and full implementation across Southern Ports by 2025
- Sustainability Plan in progress and will reinforce Southern Ports commitment to; zero net emissions; climate change and an array of other elements. The Sustainability Plan will be available to view once reviewed internally and approved.
- SP rolled out ZIP Culture training across majority of the workforce and will soon be extended to remaining employees
- Continual learning and development of our workforce remains a focus
- Health and Wellbeing programs continue to promote good mental and physical health among our people
- Asset maintenance and major maintenance programs will commence July 2022 and will add longevity to existing assets
- Master Planning completion on schedule
- Southern Ports vision remains strong: *Strong Regional Ports, Strong Regions*

SB added that SP Esperance has gone 13 months LTI (lost time injury) free which highlights the work put in and strong focus on safety across the port.

10. CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE

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

Media Coverage

Media coverage relating to Southern Ports and the Port of Esperance over the last few months has centred on:

- Esperance Agricultural Show
- 2021 harvest season
- Community Investment Program

Sponsorship

Over the last few months, we have supported numerous events and projects, including:

- 2021 Edge of the Bay Festival – Shire of Esperance
- Loan Bikes for Learners Program – Esperance Cycling Club
- Year 6 Graduation and Presentation Ceremony – Esperance Primary School
- Esperance Foreshore Festival and Fireworks 2021 – Rotary Club of Esperance

Community Investment Program

The Community Investment Program officially opened for applications on 1 January 2022, with the first round closing at the end of February. We are promoting the program through social media and print advertising and have received numerous enquiries.

The CIP Committee will be meeting in March to review the applications and make recommendations for which events and projects should be supported.

TC added further comment highlighting the excellent response we have received for the CIP. Results of first round applications will be tabled at next PCCC Meeting. (Please see minutes from meeting held 3 November 2021 for link to CIP-Presentation).

11. MEMBER DISCUSSION/FEEDBACK & COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

David Swan thanked Southern Ports for their involvement with maritime mural artwork and representative attendance at the recent opening.

KW advised Esperance has a new Harbour Master commencing late Feb.

Further comment confirming the port will switch over to the new power supply station at the end of March 2022.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Southern Ports board approved the PCCC member reappointment of David Swan for a period of 2 years.

Meeting Closed: 18:28 hours

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 4 May 2022