

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

Date: Wednesday, 4 May 2022
Venue: Southern Ports – Esperance Administration Boardroom
 Cnr Bower Avenue and the Esplanade, Esperance WA 6450
Time: 1700 hours

Attendees:	Stephen Francis Stephen Schmedje David Swan Wayne Walter Frank Roe Rob Horan	Committee Member & PCCC Chair Committee Member & PCCC Deputy Chair Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Esperance Shire Rep
	Steve Lewis Scott Bates Luca Orlandi Tori Castledine Michelle Spicer	CEO, Southern Ports Regional Manager, SP Esperance Harbour Master, SP Esperance Corporate Affairs Advisor, SP Committee Secretary, SP Esperance
Via Teams:	Kris Starceвич	Committee Member
Apologies:	Simon Gribble Malcolm Heasman Pia Powell	Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member

Meeting opened by Chairperson Stephen Francis (SF) at 17:03 hours, who welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending.

Apologies were noted.

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 1 February 2022

The minutes of the previous Committee meeting held on 1 February 2022 were noted as approved via circular resolution on 23 February 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:

Southern Ports has been minimally impacted by COVID-19. We continue to manage our workforce numbers as staff have been required to isolate either as close contacts or positive cases. There has been no recorded transmission of COVID-19 within the workplace to date, and our staff continue to adhere to all mask and social distancing mandates.

Maritime crew are now allowed to disembark, however given the requirements of securing a G2G pass, we're not seeing this occur. As the State Government ease G2G requirements, we expect this will change and crew will begin to reengage with the community. We will follow all Government requirements when this happens.

Our staff continue to adhere to mandatory vaccination requirements, with all staff required to receive their booster shots when eligible.

The Federal Government ban on international cruise ships was lifted on the 17 April 2022, and the State Government has planned a staged return for WA. Smaller interstate vessels have resumed cruising in the northern part of WA, with larger cruise vessels expected to return to other ports from October. Our first vessel is currently scheduled for December. All vessels will be required to have a COVID-19 management plan and all crew and passengers will be required to be fully vaccinated. Discussions have started between Southern Ports, the Shire of Esperance and Australia's Golden Outback about welcoming cruise ships back to Esperance.

Further discussion was held around:

- Commencement of relaxed government Covid restrictions on 28 April
- Although some staff have contracted Covid, there has been minimal impact on port operations and no recorded transmission within the workplace
- All staff are up to date with vaccinations and booster shots
- Federal government lifted ban on cruise ships. Queen Elizabeth II due to visit Esperance 4 December 2022
- Port Welfare Committee has been initiated in Esperance. The committee will look at ways to support seafarers with shore leave and general wellbeing
- Vaccination rates in the seafarer community is high however there are risks for seafarers should they contract Covid out at sea and have complications. It is a priority to keep seafarers safe.

5. TRADE FACILITATION & SUPPLY CHAIN UPDATE

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

- *Iron Ore* – small drop off however tonnage coming through the port remains strong
- *Diesel* – increase in imports
- *Fertiliser* – up on budget
- *Sulphur* – steady product flow from FQM
- *Copper* – steady flow out of IGO
- *Nickel* – short term small decrease due to some product going to Kalgoorlie smelter.
- *Spodumene* – strong growth. Bald Hill mine had first shipment and trade is expected to remain steady
- *Woodchips* – stable after a Covid lull
- *Containers* – trade is steady

There was further discussion held around:

- Increase in nickel price expected to create growth in tonnages and opportunity for miners

- The recent successful facilitation of the wind turbine infrastructure operation has prompted further enquiries with some mine sites. The location of Esperance lends itself to transport logistics. Recent works on Berth 2 has created additional space to handle break bulk cargo.

6. PORT DEVELOPMENT/PROJECTS UPDATE

SB provided the following update on port development and projects:

Projects:

- *Nickel Circuit Demo* – completion FY22
- *Shed 4 Exit Road Works* – sealed area will reduce dust and potholes. Close to completion.
- *Esperance Power Project* – transformers to link up to new power station. Complete.
- *Internal road sealing works* – phase one complete. Second seal application Mar 2023
- *Berth 3 Fatigue Strengthening* – works continue intermittently when berth is accessible (no ship in)
- *Berth 2 Hardstand Renewal* – temporary repairs complete, main works commence FY23 which will include improved runoff controls
- *Shed 3 Structural Column Repairs* – due to commence
- *Shed 3 Recladding* – upcoming FY23
- *Berths 1 & 2 Pile wrapping works* – three-year program implemented. Upcoming FY22-23, small number of Berth 2 piles FY22
- *Asset Management System* – Digital transformation will provide up to date asset information allowing asset monitoring in real time. June 2022.

Further discussion was held around:

- State Government investment in the 2022-23 budget to improve Esperance port. Master Planning outcomes provided information and justification for the next 10 years of investment which will drive trade - creating broader engagement with local suppliers and increased trade opportunities.
- Longevity and materials used for pile wrapping.

Master Plan

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

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE

SB spoke to the written report provided by Alex Leonard (AL), *Environmental Manager, Esperance*, to PCCC Members prior to meeting.:

Continuing Items:

Iron Ore Dust Working Group with MRL

SPA and MRL continue to work closely together to look at continuous improvement opportunities for dust mitigation and build on the extensive controls that are already in place. A couple of these initiatives include:

- Four bays of new water sprays have been installed into the outloading system that will be commissioned in May 2022. Each bay of four sprays has its own solenoid to allow a graduated response depending on product quality and load rate. We will monitor this improvement and establish whether there is a need for further water sprays to be installed
- Automation of inloading sprays has yet to be commissioned but is expected to be completed in the coming months. Automation plays an important role by enabling a rapid response if there is a need to condition the product.

Biosecurity

Commonwealth Department of Agriculture Water and Environment are finalising standards for the in-water cleaning of vessel hulls. A risk-based approach has been used to define the standards to prevent unacceptable emissions of biological materials and anti-fouling chemicals into Port waters and sediments (raising dredging costs for the Port). Port has the right to allow or disallow the cleaning process in its waters. The state regulator (DWER) has been requested to include this as a prescribed activity, requiring the operator to have a Licence and responsibility for their actions.

Contaminated Sites

A detailed independent survey of contamination in the laydown area used during demolition of the nickel circuit has found that the levels of contamination are very low, and the mobility is restricted in leachate testing. This means the risks to the marine environment are very low and area can be remediated by capping the contaminated material with clean sand and gravel in accordance with the Contaminated Sites Act. The location of the material will be recorded on the Geographic Information System with a reference to the survey report. The area is currently cordoned off with hazard tape preventing vehicular access to spread contaminated material.

State Marine Reserves:

The area SP would like to set aside for any contingency for port development at Butty Head will be worked through with DBCA in due course, to determine if we will need the entire 3nm area commonly used to define a Port operating area. For example, we would be unlikely to build on the west side of Butty Head as this gets the full force of the westerly swells. DBCA also raised whether there would be any requirements for an offshore hydrogen pipeline that may well come under Southern Ports control, depending on how fast things track with Fortescue Future Industries.

Pigeons

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

New Business:

Environmental Licence

In the new role of leading the Environmental Working Group on behalf of Ports WA, AL is leading discussions with other WA Ports and the state regulator (DWER) on two aspects:

- Redefining the scope of the Port Licence from “bulk granular” that in practice has applied to only minerals, or widening the scope to include grain, woodchips, petroleum products, fertilisers and most other bulk commodities. Definitions have been referenced from other states on this matter
- Changes in WA Environmental regulations have opened the door for Licencing of mobile operators such as in-water hull cleaners or stevedores on multiuser berths. Currently the Port Authority holds the Licence for multiuser berths in WA, but this is not the case in Queensland, South Australia and New South Wales (Port Authorities in Victoria do not have Licences). AL has been discussing the issue with Eastern Ports via the Environmental Working Group of Ports Australia. A summary table is being put together on the different Licencing models for multiuser berths for discussion. But ultimately it is likely the preferred Licencing model will depend on the specific circumstances of the berth operations and negotiations between the Port Authority and the regulator

Further discussion was held around:

- Potential export of hydrogen in the future

8. STRATEGIC PROJECTS UPDATE

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

- Intelliports project (system renewals) on track
- Sustainability Plan will be available to view once approved internally
- Digital Plan due in June 2022 and full implementation across Southern Ports by 2025
- Master Planning completion on schedule
- Southern Ports vision remains: *Strong Regional Ports, Strong Regions*
- Active trade and investment: secure trade and investment opportunities in the regions we serve, and ensure supply chains are efficient and support regional development
- Operational Excellence: manage our ports professionally, with exceptional customer service and asset maintenance
- Sustainability: creating long term value while achieving strong economic and regional development utilising technology, people development and sustainable practices

Further discussion was held around:

- Potential goal of some private infrastructure investment

Luca Orlandi, Harbour Master Esperance, introduced himself to PCCC Members and provided an overview of his background, previous experience, and his recent move to Esperance.

9. 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:

- Cruise ships recommencing
- Bumper harvest season
- Updated COVID-19 protocols

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 were heavily oversubscribed across all three ports – applications totalled approximately six times the funding available in this round.

In Esperance we were three times oversubscribed and were able to support 12 projects out of 16 that applied for funding.

Each application was assessed individually by committee members, and then discussed by the committee as a whole, where consensus was reached on which applications would be supported.

We were very happy with how the first round went, and that the new process included involvement from the PCCC Chair. All committee members bring a different perspective and knowledge base, meaning that applications are considered more holistically.

We're looking forward to seeing what the next round brings!

Successful applicants in this round were:

Organisation	Funding support
Condungup District Recreation Association	Condungup Community Centre Youth Precinct BBQ Area
Esperance Bowling Club	Mens Superfour Bowling Carnival 2022
Esperance Care Services	COVID-19 Response Care Packs
Esperance Clay Target Club	2022 60 th Annual Easter Carnival
Esperance Crisis Accommodation Service	Crisis Accommodation Defibrillator Units
Esperance District Football Association	Zone Carnival 2022
Esperance Netball Association	Association Member Championships – Junior Talent Development Squad
Esperance Senior High School	Demo Block Farm Training Centre – Sustainable Students Garden Project
Esperance Toy Library	Refurbishment and preparation of quarantine packs
Hope Community Services	2022 NAIDOC Week Long Table Lunch
Munglinup Bushmen's Association	Munglinup Campdraft
The Cannery Arts Centre	Esperance Art Awards

Social Media

Social media continues to grow, with excellent reach over the last quarter achieved on LinkedIn.

Statistics for the period 1 January to 31 March 2022 are as follows.

Facebook:

- 1968 people follow the page
- There were 14,908 total engagements (i.e. likes, clicks, shares and comments) with our content, this is the highest reach achieved to date
- Southern Ports posts reached 64,957 people (exposed to Southern Ports content, both paid and organic), over double reached in the last quarter. This was supported by the promotion of the Community Investment Program
- Content drove 1759 separate visits to our website
- Follower demographics
 - 45% male, 55% female
 - Majority of followers are between the ages of 25 and 54
 - 17% of our followers are based in Esperance
 - Bunbury – 24%
 - Albany – 16%
 - Perth – 12%
 - Other – 31%

LinkedIn:

- 2533 people follow the page
- There were 1523 reactions (i.e. likes, shares, comments) to Southern Ports content
- Page content made 77,478 impressions (i.e. Southern Ports content was seen this many times). This was an increase of 14% from the last quarter, supported by tags from external stakeholders such as UWA School of Design and International Tug & Salvage magazine
- 1403 people viewed the page

- Demographics are unavailable for LinkedIn

Communication Strategies

Draft internal and external communications strategies have been prepared and approved by the Executive Leadership Team. They will be presented to the Safety and Sustainability Committee at their next meeting.

As discussed at a previous PCCC meeting, the strategies' objective is to continue to build Southern Ports' strong, sustainable brand and reputation, and to cement our status as:

- A good corporate citizen and active supporter of the regions we live and operate in;
- A business partner of choice; and
- An employer our employees recommend

The external communications strategy ensures a more comprehensive, strategic and coordinated approach to external communications across the organisation, and aims to increase general community awareness, forge and develop stronger relationships and showcase our efforts to be a sustainable and innovative organisation across all our activities. Some tactics that will be engaged as part of the external communications strategy, dependent on resourcing, include:

- Communications audit and update
- Website refresh
- Building on existing social media presence
- Regular newsletters
- Proactive media relations and advertising
- Award entries

10. MEMBER DISCUSSION/FEEDBACK & COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Discussion held around SP commitment to local procurement, including our processes and policies. Local content remains a focus and SP continue to report on this regularly.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

Meeting Closed: 18:19 hours

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 3 August 2022