



SOUTHERN PORTS - ALBANY
PORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, 22nd September 2021, 5:00pm

Port of Albany, Board Room
85 Brunswick Road, ALBANY

PRESENT:

Committee members:

Chair	Graham Foster
Community Member	Andrew Duncan
	Grenville Brown
	Michael Hunter
	Neil Worrell
	Tina Queale
City of Albany representative	Andrew Sharpe

Southern Port (SP):

Director	Wiebke Ebeling
Chief Operating Officer	Keith Wilks (via Teams)
Regional Manager	Gary Crockford
Environment Manager	Paul Mackey
SP Corporate Affairs Advisor	Tori Castledine
Office Coordinator	Denise Fisher

APOLOGIES:

SP CEO	Steve Lewis
Community Members:	Geoff Bastyan
	Ian Moss
	Rodney Symes
	Tony Harrison

ITEM 1 WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting at 5:00pm and welcomed the committee.

5.1 Potential conflicts of interest

No conflicts of interest were noted.

5.2 Records of attendance / apologies

Apologies were noted.

ITEM 2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous PCCC meeting held on 26th May 2021 were noted as approved via circular resolution on 16th June 2021.

The circular resolution is ratified by the Committee.

ITEM 3 MATTER ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 New PCCC members

The meeting noted the Board approved the following new PCCC applications on the 25th June 2021:

- Grenville Brown - one year term
- Tina Queale - one year term
- Andrew Duncan - two year term
- Rodney Symes - two year term
- Benita Cattalini - three year term

Benita Cattalini has since resigned from the PCCC due to moving.

3.2 Reappointed PCCC members

The meeting noted the Board approved the following PCCC reappointments on the 20th August 2021:

- Graham Foster - three year term, expiring 30 June 2024
- Michael Hunter - three year term, expiring 30 June 2024
- Graham Foster as Chair with a term expiring 30 June 2024

ITEM 4 BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Paul Mackey presented on behalf of Alex Ogg from Australian Ocean Energy Group, Activating the Integrated Ocean Energy Microgrid in Albany WA. Points taken from the presentation include:

- Wave and tidal energy technologies can be built into an integrated renewable energy system, offering an alternative to expensive diesel reliant generation in remote and offshore operations
- 70% of the earth's surface is covered by water and has more available energy per unit area than on land
- As of 2020, 2.83GW of ocean energy were in development. IRENA estimates that around 10GW could be commercially deployed by 2030, enough to power 10 million family homes.
- Albany has multiple inputs from complementary renewable sources – wave, wind, solar
- First stage knowledge base resource, integrate the instruments already deployed around the globe
- 2nd phase smaller scale common user infrastructure to bring back to demonstration site

Q: What is the extend of the Ports involvement?

A: At the moment it is facilitating access, there is a lot of interest in that area as we have some pretty unique resources in Albany.

Q: Will this be in the open ocean or near the whaling station?

A: Wiebke gave a brief overview of the program. Wave Energy Research Centre (WERC) under UWA umbrella received funding for Alex Ogg to become the Program Manager for the marketplace component. This is a Feasibility Study to see whether Albany is a suitable place for the concept. It will be a digital marketplace, there is not currently funding to build anything.

Constructing the digital marketplace is what the port is interested in hosting. WERC are focusing on M4 technology, which is suitable for the King George Sound environment.

Q: What is the time frame on the research?

A: The system will be deployed in November 2022 and be in place for six months. Overall, the project will be for two and half years.

ITEM 5 ALBANY PORT UPDATE

Gary Crockford, Regional Manager

5.1 COVID update

The Operations Area Support Group are agencies who respond to any potential COVID19 event in Great Southern. An exercise Operation Inbound was held in August lead by WA Country Health Service, which the Port was involved in.

A session was held at Port of Albany's meeting room, before heading to the wharf to put into practice the Infection Control Procedures at every stage of transferring a suspected COVID19 patient from the gangplank of a ship to the Hospital.

The following week, the Ken Hou was anchored in King George Sound to wait the standard fourteen days from an international port before the pilot boards the vessel. The ship declared crew with flu like symptoms whilst at anchorage. After establishing the crew were well enough to travel, the Chief Health Officer made the decision for the ship to sail to Fremantle.

The meeting discussed the community's concerns of the Ken Hou's visit, with the City of Albany receiving quite a few phone calls from community members.

Q: What is Southern Ports position if this does happen in WA again, are all vessels likely to be directed to Fremantle?

A: The response is taken under the health emergency Direction by the Chief Health Officer, it is dealt as a health emergency. The Port has input on the marine perspective, is the vessel safe, can the crew man the vessel.

The meeting discussed the effects of a potential COVID19 on board a ship, media and communications, which is lead through Department of Health and outside of Southern Ports decision making process.

Q: There would have been a lot of anxious people over this period, did everyone come out ok?

A: With COVID and the long winter Albany has had, Southern Ports is aware of potential impacts on employees and port users mental health. On RUOK Day Albany Port, combined with port users, held a BBQ with a couple of speakers. This was well received by all who attended.

5.2 Plantation Energy Biomass Trade

The last shipment of biomass pellets was loaded in August. It was a cleaner operation with round the clock road sweeper and sprays on the canopy area. The weather was kinder, which kept the dust down. The shipment was bought forward due to Plantation Energy going into administration. If the trade does restarts it is noted what is required to ensure a less dusty operation.

Q: Is there any monitoring done off site? Burgoyne Road residence did have a dust issue.

A: There is a dust monitor behind Customs House. There was an improvement in dust with the last shipment, it was more planned but with the receivership of the company the shipment was moved forward. We know what is required and it will be rolled out if there is another shipment.

5.3 EOI Land Berth 6

Southern Ports received responses for trade through Berth 6. They were divided into two groups, exporters and cargo accumulators. Southern Ports have commenced responds to the exporters. We are starting to set up internal meetings to discuss the cargo accumulator responses.

5.4 Sustainability

Port of Albany's has been leading the way in sustainable thinking for the last two and half year. Recently sustainability has become a focus at a corporate level for all Southern Ports with Sprott and Associates engaged to develop a Southern Ports wide strategy.

A Southern Ports Sustainability Working Group has been implemented to develop the strategy with guidance from Sprott and Associates.

Southern Ports program is centred around United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We have completed the internal interview to develop a strategic gap analysis. The next stage is a materiality survey to stakeholders and internally. The last stage will be developing a public facing document.

Q: Is there any role for the PCCC?

A: The materiality survey will go out to the community. The PCCC can encourage people to participate in this.

Port of Albany held a Sustainability Workshop at the beginning of September. The agreed priorities in the coming 12 months include installing more solar energy and batteries on the Transit Shed, to look at rehabilitating and developing a walking trail between the administration building and Ampol site which will tie in with the City of Albany.

There has been small investments of battery operated chain saws, brush cutters etc which have good clean energy and are light and quiet to operate.

The Port of Albany has moved forward with recycling on the wharf and in the administration office.

The Nissan Leaf recently had to make the trek to Bunbury for a service, which was an exercise in ensuring the driver knew where the charging stations were and ensuring the car had enough power to make the distance.

5.5 Office Trainee

Abbie Jewel has moved to Bunbury and transferred her traineeship to the Bunbury Port. Our new Administration Trainee, Jessica Waldron, commenced in July,

During the last school term, the Maintenance Team had a student placement for one day a week. The student was well received by the team.

ITEM 6 ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE **Paul Mackey, Environment Manager**

6.1 Rushy Point Lead

The Rushy Point Lead vegetation was raised at the previous PCCC meeting. The Port Manager agreed to be more active in future vegetation contract management.

6.2 Red Fire Ant

- A serious ant pest in the world, varying in size of 2-6mm long, reddish brown colour and looks like many common native ants
- First detected at Fremantle in 2019
- Quarantine area was established with treatment and surveillance taken
- After six rounds of surveillance with no positive detection the department will declare WA free of Red Fire Ant.

For more information please view the Department of Agriculture website

<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/rifa?page=0%2C0>

- Report any detection of pests to Department of Agriculture by phone or 'MyPestGuide Reporter' app.

ITEM 7 STRATEGIC PROJECTS UPDATE **Gary Crockford, Regional Manager Albany**

Steve Lewis is an apology for this meeting, Gary Crockford presented an update.

Master planning is underway across all three ports. Port of Albany have been through a multi criteria analysis and have come up with various development paths for different trade scenarios. The general concept includes an interface tourist operation, deeper draft bulk products, port to city interface, rehabilitation from the administration building to the Ampol site and tie in with the redevelopment of the pilot cottages.

Port of Albany have engaged an architect to move forward with the UWA student outcomes for the Pilot Cottage precinct concepts.

The Master Planning final draft is expected by the end of year.

ITEM 8 MEDIA REPORT

Tori Castledine

The media report was emailed to the PCCC prior to the meeting. It included:

- Predicting harvest outcomes.
- Port of Albany has purchased Wi-Fi device for seafarers from Tas Bull Seafarers Foundation. A lot of the seafarers have been at sea for over two years, this will improve quality of life by giving them Wi-Fi access to contact family and loved ones overseas. This device has now been introduced in Bunbury and Esperance ports. In Albany, The Mission to Seafarers deploy the device to ships, clean, disinfect and test the device after it leaves ship.
- Port of Albany has supported, through sponsorship, the online ACCI Learning Hub
- MV Ken Huo

Social media

- 1,800 Facebook followers
- 1,800 LinkedIn followers
- 38,000 Facebook pages showed in newsfeeds
- 70, 000 LinkedIn page reached
- People based posts including SP workforce internally and community. Today the post introduced Albany's trainee Jess Waldron.
- National Volunteers Week to show case what staff do outside of the port which received good feedback
- Demographics - 44% men, 56% women, majority of followers 35-54 age group for Facebook
- Feedback from the meeting agreed the Port Fun Facts on Southern Ports Facebook was great.

Sponsorship

- Gnowangerup District High School – bus hire to attend One Big Voice Massed Choir in Perth
- Ocean Heroes Limited – surfing for autism communities
- Southern Peaks
- Albany Darts Association
- Albany Maritime Festival -
- Anglicare WA – multi-purpose space refurbishment

The Sponsorship Program is being reviewed, including a name change to Community Investment Program. The funding amount will stay the same. Applicants will be asked to address sustainability to align with SP goals.

Southern Ports will be holding a stall at the Agriculture Show in November.

Southern Ports Annual Report has been tabled in parliament. A link to the Annual Report will be emailed to the PCCC once finalised.

Q: Are sponsorships annual?

A: At the moment the applications are assessed as received. One of the changes to be implemented next year will be sponsorships will be assessed quarterly. This will streamline the administration and give more structure to the program.

The meeting mentioned the sponsorship is an important funding source in Albany, for community support and local groups. There are not too many funding sources left for small community groups.

Item 9 Member Discussion/Feedback and Community Questions

Q: Do the different coloured lights on the shed mean anything?

A: The lights will change to a colour for the different awareness days which Albany Port supports. Eg: RUOK day, Prostate Cancer, 16 Day in WA.

Tina Queale provided feedback on the Port Open Day which she attended as a community member.

- Excellent selection of stalls which engaged the different age groups
- CBH grain stall was great
- Sausage sizzle being free
- Containers for Change for the empty drink containers
- Good option of coffee & ice cream
- Submarine and tugs – being able to talk to the people involved
- Entry and parking was a bit of a problem
- Provide more seating in shaded areas outside and also inside
- Seagull and dog were great to interact with, suggestion to approach the Light Opera or drama groups to help in this area

Andrew Sharpe mentioned the Vital Foods site and acknowledged it is not owned by Southern Ports. The CoA are open to conversation with SP to discuss further. The CoA have worked with building owners of similar sites.

Port of Albany do monitor Vital Foods site and discuss with the regulator regarding the asbestos, which as it is at the moment is not a health risk.

The meeting discussed the return of cruise ships. Keith Wilks updated the PCCC, the international cruise market currently has a federal health order ban from Australia on a rolling 3 months. This is current to 17th December at this point. There are no current bookings for larger international cruise ships.

Domestic cruising has commenced up north around Broome area under COVID rules by Department of Health. This would be the same as a tourist bus travelling WA.

Gary Crockford has been attending online cruise conferences on how the Australian industry will restart, particularly in the regional areas.

Item 10 Items for future discussion/presentation

A suggestion for a future topic is to discuss the different products exported out of the Port.

Action: Gary to contact CBH to arrange a presenter for the next meeting.

Item 11 Any other business

No further business

Meeting closed: 6.30pm