



MINUTES OF MEETING
SOUTHERN PORTS - ESPERANCE
PORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday, 3 August 2022
Venue: Southern Ports – Esperance Administration Boardroom
Cnr Bower Avenue and the Esplanade, Esperance WA 6450
Time: 1700 hours

Attendees:	Stephen Francis Malcolm Heasman Pia Powell Kris Starcevich Wayne Walter Rob Horan Scott Bates Iain Robinson Michelle Spicer	Committee Member & PCCC Chair Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Esperance Shire Representative Regional Manager, SP Esperance Projects and Planning Manager Committee Secretary, SP Esperance
Apologies:	Steve Lewis Stephen Schmedje David Swan Frank Roe Simon Gribble	CEO, Southern Ports Committee Member & Deputy Chair Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member

Meeting opened by Chairperson Stephen Francis (SF) at 17:02 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 – 4 May 2022

The minutes of the previous Committee meeting held on 4 May 2022 were noted as approved via circular resolution on 31 May 2022. The circular resolution is affirmed by the committee.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was noted that Kris Starcevich attended the 4 May meeting via Teams and the minutes were updated.

Port Development Update was brought forward to Item 4.

4. PORT DEVELOPMENT/PROJECTS UPDATE

Iain Robinson (IR), *Projects and Planning Manager* provided the following update on port development and projects in Esperance:

Completed Projects:

- Port Internal Road Sealing – Main works are practically complete with a secondary application due March 2023
- Multi-User Shed 4 Project – Works complete with a section of road asphalted
- Nickel Circuit Demolition – Work complete with old circuit removed and nickel shiploader decommissioned
- Additional Container Hardstand – Main works complete, hardstand in operation
- Power Connection – Main works complete and power now being routed through the new transformers from Horizon Power's new power station

Upcoming Projects:

- Berth 2 Hardstand Renewal – renewal of asphalt hardstanding and improvements to stormwater management
- Shed 3 Recladding – Recladding of shed 3 and internal column repair works
- Berths 1 & 2 Pile Wrapping – Improving long-term durability of piles which support the two berth structures to prevent corrosion

Further discussion was held around:

- Southern Ports is currently supporting the yacht club with their development applications

Draft Master Plan

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

IR left the meeting.

5. COVID-19 UPDATE

Scott Bates (SB) provided an update on COVID-19:

Southern Ports continue to practice good hygiene, including additional cleaning and mask wearing (where required) in line with the latest recommendations from WA Health.

With the recent reinstatement of shore-leave arrangements, we have seen some Seafarers starting to disembark and reengage with the community.

Approximately 40% of SP Esperance staff have contracted COVID-19 over the past months. There has been minimal impact on port operations and no disruptions to customer delivery. We continue to manage our workforce effectively.

Further discussion was held around:

- What measures are in place for the developing Foot and Mouth disease overseas – further information to be provided at a later date.
- Appreciation was passed on to Southern Ports from Mission to Seafarers for ongoing support provided to seafarers

6. TRADE FACILITATION & SUPPLY CHAIN UPDATE

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

The following trade figures for FY21/22 were provided:

Iron Ore	8.6 mt	
Grain	2.9 mt	
Spodumene	700 kt	
Diesel	400 kt	
Woodchips	300 kt	
Sulphur	300 kt	
Fertiliser	180 kt	
Nickel	164 kt	
Other	200 kt	
TOTAL	13.7 mt	

Overall, a strong year with new tonnage records for diesel imports and grain exports.

Further discussion was held around:

- New trade prospects and potential future junior miners
- Recent berthing of the MV London Courage in Esperance, which is the largest bulk carrier to berth at the Esperance Port since 2006. This required extensive preplanning and consultation. With the measures that were put in place, SP is confident to facilitate this in the future
- Potential increase in spodumene in future, with recent facility upgrades at the Mt Marion mine

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE

SB spoke to the written report provided by the Esperance Environmental team:

Continuing Items:

Environment 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, was initially scheduled for commissioning in May 2022, however, changes were made to allow for each spray bar to operate independently, with commissioning now planned for September 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

No update since previous report.

Contaminated Sites

The nickel laydown area was remediated in June, by capping the contaminated material with clean sand and gravel in accordance with the Contaminated Sites Act. A final survey to confirm the surface contamination is now acceptable is required. The location of the material will be recorded on the Geographic Information System with a reference to the survey report.

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. 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). A summary table was collated following discussions between AL and some Eastern Ports on the different Licencing models for multiuser berths. 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. Following a meeting in June between Ports WA and DWER to discuss licencing changes, DWER will release a discussion paper in July to allow formal comments to be submitted on the Category 58 definitions and other aspects.

Further discussion was held around:

- Southern Ports commitment to continuous environmental improvements
- Esperance port is working on reaching the goal of having all known asbestos removed. Currently there is no risk to SPA employees or the public.
- Proposed South Coast Marine Park consultation process and potential impacts on the community. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) continue to hold regular meetings with stakeholders and the local community during the planning process. The community are encouraged to take the opportunity to be part of this and share how they use and value the local coast.
- Attendees viewed a Dust Monitoring video: [Watch here](#)

8. STRATEGIC PROJECTS UPDATE

Management updated members with a Strategic Project report, which covered the following topics:

- Master Planning drafts all completed – Capstone plan (covers all three ports plans) is currently out for Board approval. Following this, the whole package will go to Minister for approval
- Port Maximisation project – to be defined for each port, from the master plans. These plans will develop over the next year in time for next budget round and Government consideration
- Strategic Asset Planning for FY24+ budgets – to support asset needs in the shorter term (next 1-5 years, annual cycle)
- Executive CBH working group – continues to meet regularly to discuss potential strategic projects
- Iron Ore strategy – reviewing the potential for multiuser capabilities, future supply chain and infrastructure needs
- Asset Recovery program – currently being implemented

9. CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE

The following written report was 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:

- Cruising restart at the Port of Esperance in October
- State Government funding for Port of Esperance projects
- Increased shipping activity at the Port of Esperance

Community Investment Program

The second round of our Community Investment Program opened for applications on 1 April 2022 and closed on 23 May 2022. 38 applications were received across all three ports, and we were pleased to be able to support 23 projects.

In Esperance, we received 12 applications, 10 of which were approved for sponsorship. 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.

The new program format is proving to work well, and we are seeing some great applications come through from a wide range of community groups and organisations.

Successful applicants in this round were:

Organisation	Funding support
Esperance District Agricultural Society	Esperance Show (70 years)
Esperance District Recreation Association	Esperance Sports Star of the Year Award
Esperance Pony Club	Manure Management Project
Esperance Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service	Esperance Emergency Services Day
Esperance Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service	Electrical work for new shed extension (training venue)
Our Lady of the Sea Catholic Primary School	Science/STEM resources

Ravensthorpe Wildflower Show Inc	40 th Wildflower Show
Shire of Esperance	Edge of the Bay 2022
Esperance Scout Group	Camping equipment upgrade
Veteran Car Club of WA (Esperance)	Wood fire heater

Third round applications are being accepted until 31 August.

Social Media

Social on Southern Ports' Facebook and LinkedIn page remained healthy this quarter. Our Facebook page reached a new milestone, with over 2,000 followers. Our highest performing posts related to heritage and history, the use of innovative technologies, and profiled employees.

Statistics for the period 1 April – 30 June 2022 are as follows.

Facebook:

- 2,041 people follow the page
- There were 19,550 total engagements (i.e. likes, clicks, shares and comments), a 31% increase from last quarter
- Southern Ports posts reached 64,992 people (exposed to Southern Ports content, both paid and organic)
- Content drove 6,837 visits to our website
- Follower demographics
 - 55% male, 45% female
 - Majority of followers are between the ages of 25 and 54
 - 17% of our followers are based in Esperance
 - Bunbury – 20%
 - Albany – 13.5%
 - Perth – 12%
 - Other – 37.5%

LinkedIn:

- 2,966 people follow the page – an increase of 433 followers
- There were 1,839 reactions (i.e. likes, shares, comments) to Southern Ports content
- Page content made 82,826 impressions (i.e. Southern Ports content was seen this many times), a 6.9% increase from last quarter
- 1,484 people viewed the page
- Video views are up by 76% (from 4,409 to 7,765)
- Demographics are unavailable for LinkedIn

Cruising Restart

Four ships are currently booked to arrive in Esperance during the upcoming cruising season (October to April). An additional vessel is in the process of being confirmed. The return of cruise ships has generated interest from the community and media in Esperance.

The cruise industry provide a welcome boost to the local economy, and we look forward to welcoming cruise ships back to Esperance.

All cruise ships arrive in Australia through a gateway port, such as Fremantle and Adelaide. The State and Federal Government has not placed any obligations on non-first point of entry ports, such as Esperance. Our Port of Esperance team have done an exceptional job over the

past couple of years managing State and Federal requirements around vessel arrivals. We will continue our good work in this area by following Government advice and protocols as it arises.

Recruitment

We are in the process of recruiting a Manager Corporate Communications & External Affairs. This role will take a lead in sustainability and communications at Southern Ports, while managing the corporate affairs function, assisting with the delivery of our strategic direction, and strengthening SPA's role as a trusted Port Authority.

Further discussion was held around:

- Southern Ports have contributed some funds to assist the Miniature Railway Society with upcoming remedial works on the Clock Tower
- Southern Ports Esperance Stakeholder function will be held on 14 September 2022, invites will be sent out in the coming days
- Southern Ports were please to host a port tour and information session for the students of the home-schooling community on 13 July 2022
- Selected Southern Ports employees will be attending the "Esperance Stars Futures Forum" at the Esperance Senior High School on Tuesday 9th August

10. MEMBER DISCUSSION/FEEDBACK & COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Discussion was held around:

- Future PCCC meetings and potential activities (eg. port tours) members would like to be included in
- Community input and how to further add value to the PCCC group
- Potential future infrastructure improvements for port buildings. The PCCC expressed a desire for strong consultation on any major projects or works in the future.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Simon Gribble recently resigned from the PCCC. Southern Ports would like to thank Simon for his long-term contribution
- Southern Ports will hold a stall at the upcoming Esperance & Districts Agricultural Show on 14 & 15 October 2022

Meeting Closed: 18:12 hours

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 2 November 2022