

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

**Date:** Wednesday, 2 November 2022

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

**Time:** 1700 hours

<b>Attendees:</b>	Stephen Schemedje	Committee Member & PCCC Deputy Chair
	Malcolm Heasman	Committee Member
	David Swan	Committee Member
	Pia Powell	Committee Member
	Frank Roe	Committee Member
	Wayne Walter	Committee Member
	Rob Alexander	General Manager Port Development, SPA
	Greg Solly	Operations & Maintenance Manager, SPA
		Esperance
	Alana Monaghan	Corporate Communications & External Affairs Manager, SPA
	Michelle Spicer	Committee Secretary, SPA Esperance
<b>Apologies:</b>	Steve Lewis	CEO, Southern Ports
	Scott Bates	Regional Manager, SPA Esperance
	Stephen Francis	Committee Member & PCCC Chair
	Kris Starceovich	Committee Member
	Rob Horan	Esperance Shire Representative

Meeting opened by Deputy Chairperson at 17:04 hours, who welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending.

Southern Ports new Corporate Communication & External Affairs Manager, Alana Monaghan was introduced to the group.

Apologies were noted.

**1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

None

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 3 August 2022**

The minutes of the previous Committee meeting held on 3 August 2022 were noted as approved via circular resolution on 6 September 2022. The circular resolution is affirmed by the committee.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

No matters arising

PCCC members enjoyed a Tugboat Tour in the harbour prior to today's meeting, thank you to Mackenzie's Marine and Towage for facilitating this.

#### 4. COVID-19 UPDATE

Management provided an update on COVID-19:

Southern Ports continue to practice healthy hygiene habits. We see approximately 1-2 employees per week affected by COVID. There has been minimal impact on port operations and no disruptions to customer delivery. We continue to manage our workforce effectively and communicate any new updates from WA Health.

#### 5. TRADE FACILITATION & SUPPLY CHAIN UPDATE

Management provided an update on new trade opportunities for Port of Esperance:

Currently working with a potential future copper/nickel customer liaising on the logistics chain and future opportunities. Potential announcement to be made early next year.

Increase in lithium for an existing customer has seen the multiuser user circuit utilised and will soon see four different users over Berth 3.

Further discussion was held around:

- Question from PCCC member around the likelihood of future investment in the Port if iron ore price didn't rebound
  - SPA continue to work on iron ore strategies and prospects for long term planning
- The month of October saw four iron ore vessels
- Lithium continues to grow due to strong demand

#### 6. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Environmental Management provided the following update:

*Continuing Items:*

##### **Environment Working Group with MRL**

- Programmers are expected on site in the next few weeks to progress automation of new water sprays. Automation enables a rapid response to condition bulk product if product with low moisture is received from a mine site.

##### **Contaminated Sites**

- Working through legal processes in relation to Adventureland Park and public liability requirements

##### **Biosecurity**

- Foot and Mouth controls are currently in affect for any crew coming ashore off vessels from Indonesia. Shipping agents are responsible for disease control, ensuring requirements are met and controls are in place such as foot mats and foot baths.

##### **Environmental Licence**

- SPA are working collectively with other WA Ports, Chamber of Minerals and DOT on the response to the WA DWER discussion paper: *Environmental Regulation Reform of the Environmental Protection Act*. The proposed changes by DWER will potentially bring about adjustments in accountability for operational loading activities.

### **State Marine Reserves**

We continue to work with DBCA and other stakeholders on the zoning of marine parks around Port waters. The Port is working to push the zoning away from Butty Head, a contingency site of potential Port development that is also of interest to FFI.

### **Marine Environmental Quality Plan**

SPA are engaging in a voluntary planning initiative to better manage our impacts on the marine environment and expedite potential future development approvals. A consistent approach will be implemented at all three ports and include risk assessments to support a monitoring program to further develop baselines of marine quality. Part of the process will involve stakeholder consultation including PCCC members.

*New Business:*

### **Truck Noise**

- Following a community complaint on increasing truck noise, the Port environmental team contacted Main Roads to assess if more signage is required
- To assist SPA potentially identify drivers, we ask complainants to provide exact times
- Committee member made comment that new trucks are a lot quieter, and the noise will likely be coming from older style trucks
- An Environmental Alert will be distributed to truck companies and port users in the coming days with reminders on minimising truck noise whilst descending from Harbour Road into the port precinct and promoting driver behaviour.

## **7. PORT DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Management provided an update on port development and projects in Esperance:

### **Master Plan**

- Approved by the board and currently with the Minister's Office
- The Master Planning across the three ports was a big achievement for SP, already seeing some benefits and potential to unlock further funding opportunities in the future

### **Capital Works Budget**

- Significant capital works budget FY23 which will see renewing of essential assets back to a level that will allow a continued level of service for our customers

### **Upcoming Projects:**

- Shed 3 recladding – project postponed due to contractor availability and interest. SPA will reinspect and continue maintaining the shed however the project will be deferred to a later date.
- Berth 2 Hardstand Renewal – has been awarded and will commence works onsite in the next month. The project will promote best environmental practices.
- Asset recovery project – funding approved for five years

Further discussion was held around:

- SPA potential budget cycle for FY24:
  - Operations Building for employees
  - Operational technology project (renewing control systems and electrical infrastructure that are becoming obsolete). This will see opportunity to utilise more sensors and automation and get more data into the system.

- The work SPA has done over the past few years in understanding the condition of our assets and resourcing for development, has put us in a good position for forward looking plans

## **8. STRATEGIC PROJECTS UPDATE**

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

- Iron Ore strategy – working with existing customer and future supply chain
- Grain Strategy – working with CBH on their trade forecasting and potential future infrastructure needs
- IntelliPorts Project – Business systems project. This will bring in a port operating system and terminal operating system which will allow a more visible, efficient, effective, and streamlined operation
- Asset Recovery Program – upgrades to assets lowers emissions. We have our baseline emissions figures and are working towards the target of 80% reduction by 2030 in line with the state government emissions scheme.
- Sustainability Plan – will be implemented over the next 18 months. The plan encompasses how we become a sustainable organisation from an environmental, people, processes and economic perspective.
- Operations Centre concept – at concept level with potential inclusion in FY24 budget. If approved, the building will bring SPA workforce into one location and operations would be controlled from the centre. The port precinct would potentially tie in with the beaches/parks some areas available for public use. Access to the building itself would have some level of restriction.
- Industry Awards – SPA have continued to build a professional brand with some great work around port development, asset management, master planning and other, which is being recognised industry wide. SPA have been nominated for 3 awards at the upcoming Australian Shipping & Maritime Industry Awards:
  - Port of the Year
  - Seafarers Welfare
  - Safety Award
- CEO transition – Current CEO, Steve Lewis has announced his retirement for mid-2023. Process underway and transition expected to go well.

Further discussion was held around:

- Digitisation work happening throughout Southern Ports
- Being an employer of choice and what that means to our business

## **9. CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE**

The following media and sponsorship statistics were provided to the PCCC prior to the meeting and included in minutes for public perusal:

### **Media Coverage**

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

- Cruising restart
- DCN Australian Shipping & Maritime Industry Awards
- Sponsorship of the Esperance Art Awards
- 2022 Esperance Agricultural Show

## Community Investment Program

Nine community groups and organisations in and around Esperance have received a financial boost through our quarterly Community Investment Program.

A diverse range of community activities will proceed with Southern Ports' support over coming months, including school activities, environmental initiatives, Christmas celebrations and sporting event.

Successful applicants in this round were:

Organisation	Activity
Department of Communities (Child Protection)	Children in Care Christmas Party
Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry	ECCI 2022 Business Awards Celebration Evening
Esperance Clay Target Club	New Flooring Project
Esperance Primary School	2023 Camp Subsidy
Esperance Primary School	Year 6 Graduation and Presentation Awards
Esperance Senior High School	Tournament of the Minds State Finals
Esperance Soccer Association	2022 Country Week
Esperance Twilight Aerials Gymnastics	Team Gym Classic
Rotary Club of Esperance	Australia Day at Adventureland Park
Rotary Club of Esperance Bay	Rotary Festival Fireworks
Wongutha Christian Aboriginal Parent-directed School Esperance	Horticulture Shade Dome and Aquaponics

Applications are currently being accepted for the next round of the Community Investment Program, which closes at 5pm on Wednesday 30 November 2022.

## Cruising Restart

Four ships are currently booked to arrive in Esperance during the upcoming cruising season (October to April). An additional two vessels are in the process of being confirmed. The cruise industry provide a welcome boost to the local economy, and we look forward to welcoming cruise ships back to Esperance.

Scheduled cruise ship visits:

- 4 December 2022: Queen Elizabeth
- 24 December 2022: Azamara Quest
- 21 January 2023: True North – commencing from Esperance
- 15 February 2023: Azamara Quest

## Esperance Agricultural Show

Our Port of Esperance team hosted a stall at this year's Esperance Agricultural Show. Over 2,200 people entered the indoor hall across the two-day event.

Community members had the opportunity to meet our team and learn more about our Ports' operations and contribution to the region. Our HoloLens (augmented reality) goggles and drone technology proved popular with visitors of all ages.

On the final day of the show, we were pleased to be awarded the Bob Stead Trophy for the best indoor display.

## Social Media

Our social media pages continue to experience strong organic growth this quarter. Our LinkedIn page surpassed a milestone of 3,000 total followers. Human interest content relating to Southern Ports' staff and local communities remain popular with our followers.

Statistics for the period 1 July to 30 September 2022 are as follows.

Facebook:

- 2,089 people follow the page
- There were 6,417 total engagements
- Southern Ports posts reached 22,975 people
- Content drove 251 visits to our website
- Follower demographics
  - 45.8% men, 54.2% women
  - Majority of followers are between the ages of 35 and 54
  - 17% of our followers are based in Esperance

LinkedIn:

- 3,221 people follow the page – an increase of 255 followers
- There were 1,064 reactions (i.e. likes, shares, comments)
- Page content made 58,559 impressions (i.e. Southern Ports content was seen this many times)
- Demographics are unavailable for LinkedIn

### **Recruitment**

Southern Ports has welcomed Alana Monaghan to the role of Manager Corporate Communications & External Affairs.

Alana spoke to the group and offered an “open door policy” to members going forward for any feedback, areas of business that members would like to see showcased, good news stories, community issues and/or concerns.

Social media continues to grow with Facebook our number one avenue for getting information out to community about what’s happening in the ports. We will continue to run campaigns with the aim of reaching more people.

## **10. MEMBER DISCUSSION/FEEDBACK & COMMUNITY QUESTIONS**

An update was provided to members regarding Southern Ports management of Taylor St Jetty:

- The jetty is over 50 years old and although Southern Ports have invested a significant amount in maintenance to ensure public safety, at present it is unsustainable and therefore has come to the end of its useful life
- SPA is managing the issue with public safety paramount and have closed off a portion of the jetty and lowered load limits
- Ongoing assessment indicates 12-18 months remaining life on ‘open’ section. Beyond that, the structure will likely not be able to remain safely in service due to its condition
- SPA is currently assessing options including other future infrastructure development options which will likely need Shire and/or DoT input and grant funding. A potential option that we have designed is infrastructure on the inside of the marina that would offer similar functionality
- SPA will continue to communicate with community and any groups that may be impacted

Further discussion was held around:

- Cruise ships recommencing and tendering options in the future
- Funding for future marina development opportunities

## 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Malcolm Heasman, Stephen Francis, and Stephen Schmedje have been reappointed as committee members for a period of 2 years
- Committee members discussed the community preference for local content to be a factor in determining the tug tender award due next year and indicated their support in Mackenzie Marine in its endeavours to secure future contracts in Esperance.
  - Local content remains a focus and SPA continue to report on this regularly. Our vision is strong regional ports, strong regions.
- DS provided an update on the Marina redevelopment. Contracts have been signed and has gone out for final design and construction. This will be followed by the final approval from the port and procurement. It was noted that Esperance port have also provided assistance outlining Environmental management plans and systems which are required for contractual lease arrangements.
- Southern Ports are working with Mission to Seafarers to secure a new bus for seafarer's transportation when coming ashore. The bus currently in use is needing repairs frequently due to its age. The wait on vehicles at the moment is upwards of 4/5 months so availability is proving difficult.

The Deputy Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

**Meeting Closed:** 17:53 hours

**Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 1 February 2023