



SOUTHERN PORTS - ALBANY
PORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, 30 August 2023, 5:00pm

Port of Albany, Board Room
85 Brunswick Road, ALBANY

PRESENT:

Committee members:

Chair	Ian Moss
Community Member	Dawn Atkin
	Edwin McLean
	Kristen Pryz-Brown
	Michael Hunter
	Rod Symes
	Tina Queale
City of Albany representative	Jan van der Mescht

Southern Port (SP):

Board representative	Wiebke Ebeling
CEO	Keith Wilks
Regional Manager	Paul McSweeney
Environment Manager	Paul Mackey
Corporate Communications Manager	Alana Monaghan
Office Coordinator	Denise Fisher

APOLOGIES:

Deputy Chair	Graham Foster
Community Member	Angela Ritchie
	Geraldine Ennis
	Simone Klose

ITEM 1 WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting at 5:00pm and welcomed the committee and new members. The Chair acknowledged Keith Wilks and Alana Monaghan for their travel to Albany.

1.1 Potential conflicts of interest

Nil conflicts of interest were noted.

1.2 Records of attendance / apologies

Apologies were noted.

ITEM 2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous PCCC meeting held on 31 May 2023 were agreed as being a true and correct record.

ITEM 3 BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION
M4 Wave Energy Project
Wiebke Ebeling, MERA, UWA

Wiebke Ebeling presented an update on Albany's Wave Energy Demonstration project, the M4.

- M4 is the shortened name for **Moored MultiModal Multibody**, a wave energy converting technology invented by the University of Manchester, UK (academic collaboration, no commercial IP outside of Europe).
- The CSIRO Australian Wave Energy map on the handout – red area shows more energy, blue is less power, with the arrows showing the wave direction. Consistency with wave direction is advantageous. The southern coastline of Australia has the best wave energy resources world-wide.
- Two main development sites have been identified. The gold standard is offshore from Albany Windfarm for a full size system, and the nursery site to test smaller demonstration systems for learnings is near Seal Island in King George Sound.
- Unlike in commercial projects, UWA will be publishing everything that is learnt from design, construction, procurement, deployment, operation, and retrieval.
- Deployment of the M4 to be before Christmas 2023, with retrieval in March 2024 (when Easterly winds cease).
- A full site survey of sea grass mapping and environmental impact assessment plan for the deployed area has been completed.

A discussion followed on the demonstration device that does not connect to the onshore grid.

ITEM 4 CEO UPDATE
Keith Wilks, CEO

The GTE Reform Act was recently introduced on 1 July 2023. The biggest change for Southern Ports is significant decisions will now include consulting with the portfolio minister and the Treasury office.

David Michael was engaged as the new Minister for Ports in June 2023. He is very engaged in learning about Ports and will be visiting Albany during the first week in October.

Currently reviewing the Strategy FY24 and business planning and budget approvals.

The CEO has been engaging with the Traditional Custodians and has met with Elders and CEO of Aboriginal Corporations at Bunbury and Esperance Ports and will do the same in Albany. Southern Ports are looking at increasing with engaging Traditional Custodians, with potentially including a standing nomination on the PCCC.

The CEO recently gave the Board an indication of where SP journey is going with decarbonization. We are currently estimating in 2023 a 30% reduction from 2020, which was SP's baseline year.

There were various records celebrated across the three ports for last financial year.

ITEM 5 ALBANY PORT UPDATE
Paul McSweeney, Regional Manager

Southern Ports last financial year several records were broken. At Albany Ports there was an overall trade record over 5.5 million, 4.1 MT grain and 256 000 tonnes of silica sand exported.

Southern Ports are continuing to work closely with Grange Resources as they seek to progress their project. Under the Ports Authorities Act Southern Ports are required to facilitate trade. The Chair addressed the letters circulated from a PCCC member.

An external consultant has been contracted to update Albany Ports Asbestos Register. Once completed the port will be proactive with big projects each year in the removal of asbestos.

Albany Port are continuing to work with proponents to aggregate trade through Berth 6.

There is a continuing strong focus on safety, in line with SPA KPI's.

There will be an all Port RUOK Day BBQ on 14th September, organised in conjunction with the larger port lease holders.

The cruise ships are welcomed back with 14 vessels due to visit Albany. Southern Ports are working to try and invite the vessels to stay longer. Keith Wilks represented SP, along with a City of Albany representative at the WA Tourism Cruise Exchange. Albany is considered as the jewel of the south.

Albany Port are continuing with progressing enterprise agreements and negotiations. The Maintenance Ops Team recently had a labour review day with constructive discussions on what works and does not work. It was a positive day.

Earlier today the Community Incentive Program had their meeting to discuss the sponsorship applications received.

The Pilot Cottages are an area of the port rich in culture and historical significance. The current tenants are vacating by 8 September. The Port will work towards making the site safe, secure and continue to scope and find ways to fund the precinct for the Albany Bicentenary.

The Port are sitting as a Stakeholder for the preparation of the Albany Waterfront Master Plan being led by GSDC.

An external contractor has been engaged to work on blasting and painting underneath Berth 3. This is ongoing and proactive maintenance.

Albany Port has an exciting initiative with engaging young people at the port. A new Business Administration Trainee commenced on a two year engagement, a work experience student has commenced with the Maintenance Ops team for one day a week over the school term, a Curtin University student undertaking a degree in Health and Safety has commenced to do a practical work placement. Albany Port are also scoping a trainee in the Maintenance Ops area.

The Albany Port team attended the ASHS/NASHS Career Expo last Friday. The Harbour Master joined in the Career Speed Networking answering questions from the students about his career. He received positive feedback from parents who have contacted him.

Albany Port held a booth at NAIDOC week celebrations at the Albany Entertainment Centre. The staff attended a very informative cultural tour of the fish traps given by Vernice Gillies.

The Port is very excited to be working with MERA on the M4 project.

Berth 6 is a dolphin berth built in 2000-2001 for the woodchip trade. Albany Port has a synergetic agreement with Japanese Aburatsu Port. About 6 weeks ago the Port hosted the Japanese Ambassador who visited Albany.

ITEM 6 ENVIRONMENT UPDATE

Paul Mackey, Environment Manager

Paul Mackey presented a PowerPoint on the Brunswick Road Bush Regeneration.

- The contract has been awarded to Greenskills, with the contractor finalising the works on the first workplan.
- The Environment team are working with Comms on signage to be displayed in the area.
- Early works have been undertaken, for example on the removal of creeper tree.
- The logs from the previous harvest have been deployed for seating and habitat.
- The replanting of seedlings are now one year old, with success of natural regeneration.

ITEM 7 MEDIA REPORT

Alana Monaghan, Corporate Communications & External Affairs Manager

The corporate affairs report and media coverage report was emailed to PCCC members for review. Alana Monaghan briefly reviewed the reports to the meeting.

The Day of the Seafarer was celebrated last quarter. Gifts were provided to ships that were in Port on the day.

SP signed a new corporate partnership with Foodbank WA to provide 50,000 meals to families in need across Albany, Bunbury and Esperance regions.

A staff survey was held over reconciliation week. Feedback from the staff included more direct engagement with the indigenous communities in the region, which led to cultural walks within the regions.

Community Investment Program

- Last financial year there were 45 community groups in Albany who received funding.
- There were 15,000 locals that were directly supported through the program.
- It was estimated 150,000 people in the region were touched through the program.
- The Comms team are hoping to grow the CIP over time.

Information about the 2023 stakeholder survey results were displayed. The survey was either a phone call or short meeting with port users, government agencies and community members. This year there was an increase in results to 73 (good to very good), which puts SP at a level of other ports in Australia. Further discussion followed on the process of surveys, with a request of who are the senior and junior stakeholder.

Action: Alana to follow up with a list of the senior and junior stakeholders.

ITEM 8 COMMITTEE MEMBERS TERM

The PCCC agreed via circular resolution and endorsed by the CEO on 21st August 2023 the follow new members and terms:

- Dawn Atkin, 1 year term
- Edwin McLean, 1 year term
- Geraldine Ennis, 1 year term
- Kristen Pyrz-Brown, 2 year term
- Simone Klose, 2 year term

ITEM 9 MEMBER DISCUSSION

A member suggested for future discussion sustainability planning. The Environment Manager gave a brief overview of what Albany Port are working towards.

A member enquired about the updates on the upgrades of Berth 1 & 2. The CEO replied it is on the agenda and working through the engineer scoping and looking at it strategically.

A member questioned about the noise impacts with the bulldozers on the woodchips. The Environment Manager described that there is one bulldozer woodchip contractor that works on both sites. The noise is likely most discernible on during still/ low wind conditions. Unfortunately, they cannot move to a rubber based track system as it is a contaminant within the product for paper pulp processing and is a component of normal port operations.

ITEM 11 ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

The list of items for discussion from previous minutes include:

- Collaboration with the Albany Community on the Bicentenary 2026 – City of Albany
- Harvest Road
- Albany Harbours Sustainability Group

The meeting agreed to invite to the November meeting for presentation:

- Albany Harbours Sustainability Group

Meeting closed: 6:30pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, 29 November 2023