



SOUTHERN PORTS - ALBANY
PORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, 31 May 2023, 5:00pm

Port of Albany, Board Room
85 Brunswick Road, ALBANY

PRESENT:

Committee members:

Chair	Ian Moss
Community Member	Angela Ritchie
	Rod Symes
	Tina Queale
City of Albany representative	Andrew Sharpe

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

Guest presenter:

City of Albany	Anthony McEwan
----------------	----------------

APOLOGIES:

Deputy Chair	Graham Foster
Community Member	Tony Harrison

ITEM 1 WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting at 5:02pm and welcomed the committee. The Chair acknowledged Keith Wilks, being his first meeting as CEO, and also Alana Monaghan for their travel to Albany.

Ian Moss attended the SPA Board meeting on 5 March 2023. Points mentioned:

- Grange proposal and dust concerns
- Noise concerns with CBH, an ongoing concern for resident
- Albany's Bicentenary
- Still a lot of community interest in cruise ships, with a traffic jam on Marine Drive for the QEII visit
- PCCC being kept informed of alternative fuels and greenhouse gas reduction strategies
- Community Investment Program and appreciation for committee member Tina Queale in participating
- Brunswick Road vegetation.

1.1 Potential conflicts of interest

Andrew Sharpe, CEO City of Albany declared the Albany Surf Reef being a City of Albany project.

1.2 Records of attendance / apologies

Apologies were noted.

ITEM 2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous PCCC meeting held on 22 February 2023 were agreed as being a true and correct record.

Moved: Andrew Sharpe

Seconded: Tina Queale

ITEM 4 ALBANY PORT UPDATE

Paul McSweeney, Regional Manager

- Paul McSweeney welcomed Keith Wilks to his first PCCC meeting as CEO.
- Trade results – Albany Port had a record trade of 5.1 million tonnes in 2016/17. The port will surpass that amount this year, with suggestions of a record trade of 5.3 million tonnes or more.

Last year Albany Port set a record with just over 3 million tonnes of grain exported, forecasts suggest we will reach 4 million this year.

- The cruise ship season has finished with 13 ships scheduled and 11 ships visiting Albany. The cruise ship visits add significantly to Albany's and the Great Southern economy.
- SPA is continuing to work closely with Grange Resources on the proposed magnetite project, with the EPA visiting Albany port tomorrow.
- An EBA for the Maintenance and Operations team is progressing.
- Paul McSweeney is representing Albany Port on the Bicentenary Reference Group organised by the CoA.
- Albany Port are continuing to have a strong focus on our safety.
- Albany Port are continuing to be proactive with eliminating asbestos from the port.

A Committee Member enquired about the woodchip trade. The Regional Manager advised that woodchip trade will be close to one million tonnes this year. The Australian Bluegum operation will be ongoing, they have replenished their supplies. The APEC operations is gradually reducing. SPA is looking at ways to increase trade through Berth 6, including an EOI process last year for trade aggregators. There has been a strong level of enquiries.

ITEM 5 ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Paul Mackey, Environment Manager

- Grange EPA Services Unit are visiting tomorrow to look at the marine proposal and visit various sites, including Anchorages W and Y, HMAS Perth dive site, aquaculture zones, Goode Beach. The tour will be in the pilot boat to see the sites from the water.
- RFQ is out for consideration for further regeneration and weed control on the bush area on Brunswick Road. It will be a 3+2 year contract.

The dead trees have been woodchipped for help with suppression and trail upkeep, with logs put aside for future trail usage.

Paul Mackey acknowledged Anthony McEwen and his team for their leadership and assistance in integrating the port aspects into the Mounts Master Plan

A Committee Member enquired if the white guards around the seedlings are plastic or cardboard. Paul Mackey advised the guard are cardboard. The seedlings that were not successful the guards will be reused. The next planting will be done in two plots, one with and one without guards as there has not been a lot of rabbit activity in the area.

A Committee Member enquired if the storm water runoff from the port area is treated before going into Princess Royal Harbour. The Environment Manager described the various stormwater approaches and setting.

ITEM 6 CEO UPDATE

Keith Wilks, CEO

Keith Wilks is one month into the role as CEO, commencing with SPA in January 2020 as COO. Keith has been working in ports for 18 years and in the marine industry his whole career.

- SPA's digitisation project, Intelliports, will be rolled out over the year.

- There is a requirement to backfill Keith Wilk's previous role and also another senior executive who has left Southern Ports.
- Whilst Albany Port has had a record grain tonnage exported, there will not be a record in ship visits this financial year. The Harbour Master has been working with CBH to accommodate wider beam ships, we are seeing a potential transition in the size of ships being used.
- Last week the State Government issued a Greenhouse Reduction Framework for Government Trading Enterprises to work towards net zero emissions target by 2050.

The Federal Government announced it is setting up a steering committee to work on maritime decarbonisation. For example, developing green corridors between ports where you can get green fuel for ships, Port Hedland one port that is currently trialling different initiatives in WA.

- Berth 1 & 2 will continue to be kept on the agenda. It is an important issue, where the Management Team will have hard decisions within the next couple of years. A case will be put together for funding from the State Government with broader support from the community.
- SPA has contributed to the Cruise Strategy from Tourism WA, Superyacht Strategy and Great Southern Tourism Plan.
- SPA Board supports the removal of asbestos and demolition of asbestos buildings. Compared to Bunbury and Esperance and with Albany's long history and historical use, there is still a fair way to go for the removal.

ITEM 8 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.

Alana Monaghan presented the Southern Ports Sustainability Plan Overview with four pillars – People, Environment, Community and Partners, Regional Prosperity. The presentation is attached with a link <https://www.southernports.com.au/corporate/sustainability> for more information.

ITEM 9 COMMITTEE MEMBERS TERM

Paul McSweeney, Regional Manager chaired Item 9.

Three PCCC members term is due to expire on 30 June 2023. Each member individually left the room for the remaining members to vote.

- Ian Moss – 2 year term and continue as Chair
- Angela Ritchie – 2 year term
- Rodney Symes – 2 year term

The PCCC unanimously agreed to reappoint these members for a 2 year term.

Michael Ford has resigned from the PCCC.

The PCCC agreed for extra advertising to be done for new members.

ITEM 9 MEMBER DISCUSSION

A Committee Member enquired if Albany Port are planning to commence port tours again. The Environment Manager replied there is a resourcing issue, also health and hygiene with the COVID still in the community and the flu season coming up. If there are special requests for port tours, these will be looked at on a request basis.

The size of ships that visit the Albany Port was discussed, with the CEO explaining the difference.

A Committee Member who is a resident on Brunswick Road mentioned there was a good result from a discussion with CBH and Councillor Greg Stocks regarding the noise from the sandblasting on the CBH silos. CBH have since modified their hours of operation.

The Regional Manager mentioned he received from a PCCC member a letter and questions in relation to the Grange Resources project. As the information was received just prior to the meeting, it will be addressed at the next PCCC meeting, and the questions and letter tabled with the minutes from this meeting.

ITEM 3 BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Albany Surf Reef
City of Albany
Anthony McEwan, Manager of Major Projects

Item 3 was presented later in the agenda. Andrew Sharpe, CEO City of Albany, introduced Anthony McEwan and the great work he is doing around Albany.

Anthony presented a video and PowerPoint on the Southern Ocean Surf Reef. Points taken from the discussion include:

- [Albany Artificial Surf Reef Project - No Subtitles - YouTube](#)
- Community driven project with a 20 year history
- Feasibility study completed in 2015
- Steering and working group has been ongoing since 2015. Next financial year the City will reactive the Community Reference Group
- Budget of \$11 million, with funding from the State and Federal Government and the City of Albany. Waiting for the signed funding agreements from the Federal Government to proceed in July.
- Reef design: 350m past Big 4 Caravan Park at Middleton Beach
140m offshore
At its shallowest point, the crest of the reef will be 1m below average water level
Left hand surfing direction
Made from natural granite material
- A range of numerical models were used, including a long term (40 years) wave hindcast model.
- Physical modelling was undertaken over a 6 month period at a specialist QLD Govt Hydraulics Lab. A scale model (1:30) was constructed replicating a section of Middleton Beach seabed.
- Computational Fluid Dynamic (CFD) modelling was done with assistance from specialist in Auckland. Three weeks of computation on high speed supercomputer.
- Ongoing maintenance and monitoring is budgeted for \$50,000/yr
- Construction will be from local granite rock, a split hopper barge will dump the rock on the seafloor adjacent to the ASR. A backhoe dredger will pick up the rocks and place, guided by GPS controls.
- Site establishment, redeliveries and rock supply can take up to 10 months
- Marine construction will be between October and February of given year and be up to 3 months.
- Commencement will be subject to market response, contractor and equipment availability

The meeting discussed:

- Trucking the rocks into the port, noise levels and loading of the rock on to the barge.
- The City of Albany are in discussion regarding the parking requirements for the whole precinct.
- There will be a fishing exclusion zone around the ASR.

The Chair thanked Anthony for a very informative presentation.

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
- M4 Wave energy - UWA
- Harvest Road
- Albany Harbours Sustainability Group

The meeting agreed to invite:

- M4 Wave energy - UWA to present at the August meeting.

Meeting closed: 6:40pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, 30 August 2023