

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

Date: Wednesday, 14 February 2024
Venue: Southern Ports – Esperance Administration Boardroom
 Cnr Bower Avenue and the Esplanade, Esperance WA 6450
Time: 1700 hours

Attendees:	Stephen Francis Stephen Schmedje Wayne Walter Malcolm Heasman Rob Horan Rod Taylor Ron Chambers Scott Bates Alex Leonard Alana Monaghan Michelle Spicer	Committee Member & PCCC Chair Committee Member & PCCC Deputy Chair Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Shire Representative for PCCC Regional Manager, SPA Esperance Environmental Manager, SPA Esperance Corporate Communications & External Affairs SPA Committee Secretary, SPA Esperance
Via Teams:	Keith Wilks	CEO, SPA
Apologies:	David Swan Frank Roe	Committee Member Committee Member

Meeting opened by Chairperson at 17:03 hours, who welcomed newly appointed Shire Representative – Ron Chambers and thanked everyone for attending.
 Apologies were noted.

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- None

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 01 November 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 01 November 2023 were noted as approved via circular resolution on 28th November 2023.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- None

4. TRADE FACILITATION & SUPPLY CHAIN UPDATE

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

- We are now over halfway through FY24 which has seen a solid trade year so far. Some highlights include:

- Spodumene tracking well with Mt Marion delivering consistent tonnage
- Fuel imports steady
- Potential new trade start-up for scrap metal
- All other:
 - Grain is steady, with approx. 2.8 MTPA predicted for FY24. Although FY23 saw new grain records, FY24 figure predictions are still recognised as a strong year.
 - Discussions progressing with a second Iron Ore customer. The new MRL contract has enabled shed access for a second customer and SPA continue to work closely with the proponent. Positive for the port and the town.
 - Exploring liquid fertiliser storage opportunities – still in early exploration stages, this would see a reduction in truck traffic with the current method of fertiliser transportation.

Committee Discussion:

- Is importing liquid fertiliser an economic avenue? At this stage, the level of detail is minimal, and currently in exploration approach only.

5. PROJECTS UPDATE

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

Current Projects:

- Container crane structural repairs progressing well and continuing over the next 5 months during scheduled shutdowns. Three of these shutdowns have been completed successfully (safely, on time and on budget). Local contractors have been engaged for this project.
- Shed 3 roof restoration and recladding (in some areas) has commenced and is progressing well. Forecasting to finish ahead of schedule in May.
- Operational Technology project has been tendered and now evaluating. We are negotiating final terms with the final two proponents.
- Berth 2 Hardstand practical completion - will demonstrate best practice in storm water discharge and will maximise storage. Substantially complete. There are some level controls to commissioning and a kerbing tie in to finish.
- Shed 4 column repairs progressing well.
- CV26 (which connects the RCD with shed 3 and is the one conveyor that everything runs through) works for corrosion issues and gallery replacement has been awarded to First Nations Engineering (FNE). Kick off meeting held last week. Finalising program of works, likely commence July/August 2024.
- Taylor St Quarters scope is being finalised for tender for floor works. Will look at doing this during the winter months.
- Electrical workshop replacement scope is being finalised for tender.

Future Projects:

- FY25 – working through Hughes Road stages 2 & 3.
- FY25 – will tender the engineering for Tug Pens (replacement as they are at end of life).
- FY25 – berth 2 and 3 crane rail repairs are the next sustaining capital priority works.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Environmental Management provided the following update:

Events:

- No signification events in the last quarter

- Three dust complaints received, one referred to CBH in relation to grain dust. Two complaints received were general dust with iron ore minerals being less than 10% of the total.

New Business:

- Product quality checks being undertaken for IGO's Forrestania Mine as they investigate different opportunities for export.
- In the process of notifying Golden Valley of our product quality requirements, particularly in relation to their moisture management.
- Woodchips restarting – SPA will be ensuring all loading controls are in place for dust controls and monitoring dust levels.

Continuing Items:

- *Environmental Licence:* Negotiations continuing with Ports WA and DWER on a Licence that better facilitates trade more effectively through Ports (and sees mine sites take more responsibility for product quality), as well as protects the environment. Next meeting is 11 March and hoping these discussions begin to make more rapid progress.
- *Marine Environmental Quality Planning (MEQP) and Port Land reclassification:* review of MEQP was extended to allow input from our Contaminated Sites Consultant who will ensure we are going through the process of reclassifying Port lands as fit for continued industrial use, and without requiring anymore investigation of legacy issues that have already been classified as low risk. Some tweaks maybe required to cater for government changes in higher level scrutiny in assessing risks of PFAS containing fire foaming foams onsite. Hence the delay in finalising the MEQP.
- *Weed Management Plan: Port Beach dunes and bush (buffer land) between Hughes Road and Bostock Street:* ETNTAC working with local company Enviro Civil Services to provide a logistics plan which factors in access difficulties, including sloping land. If the works are financed over a number of years to make gradual land improvements, it (control weeds) would improve the natural value of the land as well as public amenity.

Committee discussion:

- Mine site Environmental Licences: SPA works closely with our mining partners on product condition that comes through the port to ensure standards are met.
- Upcoming Woodchip vessel: SPA is working closely with the customer to ensure no issues with loading product on non-dedicated woodchip vessel. Controls are in place.
- Monitoring of beehives: Community query received from a local Beekeeper around surveillance of beehives at Port of Esperance. With the recent detection of Varroa mite at Port of Newcastle it has raised potential concerns around other ports and the regularity of beehive monitoring. Beehives are monitored by DPIRD (*Department of Primary and Regional Development*) therefore SPA will provide information to PCCC after a discussion with this state agency.

7. SOUTHERN PORTS UPDATE

SPA CEO Keith Wilks provided the following update:

- Welcomed all to the first Esperance PCCC meeting of 2024.
- A recent review of the Executive structure within the organisation saw the introduction of an expanded Executive Leadership Team, including two newly-created Executive roles.

Within these roles, there will be emphasis on new trade & customer connections and trade associations, as well as Cyber security and technology governance.

- Virginia Wilson has been appointed as Southern Ports Chief Trade & Customer Officer
- Amber Smith has been appointed Chief Information Officer
- Incoming Chief Financial Officer (TBC) will commence in March 2024
- Regional Manager roles will be strengthened as a result of the new structure with a focus on stakeholder and community engagement.
- Port of Esperance was the first of our sites to launch our new Terminal Operating System (TOS). TOS will standardise the planning, tracking and management of cargo across our ports, ensuring enhanced efficiencies.
- New shipping system: Port Management Information System (PMIS) is now live. PMIS is a public system designed to benefit shipping agents, relevant marine agencies and our team in managing visiting vessels across all three of our ports.
- Local agriculture lease – working on seaweed trials.
- Preliminary discussions with an organisation that's looking to build a spaceport between Esperance and Eucla.
- With the arrival of a new pilot boat in Bunbury, their second boat has been transferred to Esperance and will provide a backup pilot boat as Esperance currently only has one.

8. CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE

Corporate Affairs management shared a presentation which included the following:

Highlights:

- Awards wins (Australian Maritime and Shipping Awards):
 - Southern Ports won Port of the Year across all three of our ports
 - Chief People and Sustainability Officer Monica Birkner was highly commended in Women in Maritime Award
 - Esperance Marine Pilot Callum MacAdie was highly commended in Young Achiever's Award
 - Berth 2 Stormwater project was a finalist in the Environmental Award
- Award wins (Planning Institute of Australia – WA):
 - Strategic Planning Project winner (Master Plan)
 - Finalist in the PIA National Awards to be held in May
- Steve Lewis Regional Scholarship launch:
 - Applications open 15 January and close on 6 March
 - Scholarship is open to everyone, and we strongly encourage all students to apply
- Other:
 - Feature profile on Marine Pilot Callum MacAdie went live last month
 - Working with Ministers Office on road funding announcement for Hughes Road
 - Branding on MTS bus
 - Continue to promote SPA Community Investment Program
 - Presence at Christmas Pageant held by Shire of Esperance

In the News:

- Port of the Year
- Feature in DCN
- Mackenzie's Marine & Towage and the port featured in Bill Bailey's Wild West Australian Adventure (watch on ABC iView).

CIP Program Recipients:

- 14 Groups supported
- Next round closes 15 February
- \$43,000 of funding provided to a diverse range of groups including a Parkrun initiative for Esperance

Upcoming:

- Annual Port of Esperance photo shoot
- Scholarship announcement expected around end of March
- Stakeholder satisfaction survey
- Intranet development
- Communications Team will be expanding

Committee discussion:

- State funding initiative for all secondary schools to have access to a defibrillator does not include Primary schools. SPA encouraged as many groups including schools to apply for Community Investment funding.

9. MEMBER DISCUSSION/FEEDBACK & COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

- Rotary Club of Esperance would like to thank Southern Ports in providing significant funding for Australia Day, which saw a very successful event with a diverse range of stalls.
- Rotary Club of Esperance would like to thank Southern Ports for sponsoring New Years Eve Fireworks. Although there were technical issues it was still a successful evening. Upon investigation it was found the technical difficulties were caused by interference from an antenna on a nearby radio van.
- Request for Taylor St Jetty update: Southern Ports continue to work in the background exploring solutions and have reached out to GEDC with a meeting scheduled for mid-March. Will share with the group outcomes from that meeting.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Indigenous Awareness Training recently completed by SPA Managers highlighted the importance of the work we are doing locally with Tjaltjraak. This contract is supporting six full-time Rangers.
- Pigeons: working with CBH on a conservative approach for pigeon control.
- Azamara Quest coming to anchorage on Friday and tendering into shore.

Meeting Closed: 17:55 hours

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 1 May 2024 (TBC)