

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

Date: Wednesday, 01 November 2023
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 David Swan Rob Horan Rod Taylor Frank Roe Rob Alexander Scott Bates Alex Leonard Michelle Spicer	Committee Member & PCCC Chair Committee Member & PCCC Deputy Chair Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Interim Chief Operating Officer, SPA Regional Manager, SPA Esperance Environmental Manager, SPA Esperance Manager, SPA Committee Secretary, SPA Esperance
Via Teams:	Alana Monaghan	Corporate Communications & External Affairs
Apologies:	Keith Wilks	CEO, SPA

Meeting opened by Chairperson at 17:06 hours, who welcomed newly appointed PCCC member Mr. Rob Horan and thanked everyone for attending.
 Apologies were noted.

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rob Horan has completed his term as Shire Representative for the PCCC. The Shire will appoint a new representative in the coming weeks. Rob was approved as a general Committee Member via the usual application process.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 23 August 2023

The minutes of the previous Committee meeting held on 23 August 2023 were noted as approved via circular resolution on 21st September.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Southern Ports have received a large amount of apprenticeship applications. Thanks to the Shire of Esperance for digital advertising along the foreshore in recent weeks.

4. TRADE FACILITATION & SUPPLY CHAIN UPDATE

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

Scott Bates provided a trade overview presentation.

- Slower than expected start in Iron ore due to moisture issues.
- Grain steady with 1mt already through the port. Expecting a solid year in grain however not predicted to be as strong as last year.
- Woodchips on hold until buyer issues are resolved with China.
- Spodumene saw a very strong start.
- All other commodities remain steady.

New Trade:

- Discussions continue with Iron ore junior in the Yilgarn region.
- Lithium enquiries continue.
- Potential for liquid AN fertiliser. The port will engage with PCCC if this progresses further.
- MRL recently set up a truck driving academy to assist operations throughout the regions.

5. PORT DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

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

Current Projects:

- Container crane structural repairs over the next 6 months during scheduled shutdowns.
- Shed 3 recladding due to areas of corrosion.
- Operational Technology project will see replacement of control systems.
- Berth 2 Hardstand practical completion - will demonstrate best practice in storm water discharge. Esperance Port has been nominated for environmental award at the upcoming DCN awards for this project.

Future Projects:

- Rebuild of Hughes Road, currently evaluating tenders with the project expected to commence in the new year.
- FY25 – working through several proposals.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Environmental Management provided the following update:

- DAFF approval received for increase in container imports.
- Licence approval received to increase fertiliser imports.

*Alex Leonard shared a presentation on the **Marine Environmental Quality Plan**:*

- Objective of this plan is:
 - to have sufficient baselines for environmental quality indicators to indicate health of Port waters.
 - to have consistency with other WA Ports and;
 - to help expedite any future development approvals.
- Plan structure includes:
 - Environmental values (ecosystem health, fishing and aquaculture, recreation and aesthetics, industrial water supply, cultural and spiritual)
 - Environmental quality objectives (ecosystem integrity, seafood safe for consumption, suitable for aquaculture, safe for swimming, safe for secondary contact, aesthetic values protected, suitable for industrial use, cultural/spiritual values protected)

- Environmental quality indicators (aesthetics, biological condition and extent, physicochemical constituents in water and sediments, toxicants in water and sediments)
- Monitoring and assessment (environmental quality objectives at risk)
- Investigation and action
- Map
 - Levels of protection selected are generally high across Port waters including the spoil area and aquaculture leases at Wylie Bay.
 - The inner Harbour and Yacht Club have been allocated a moderate level of protection based on them both being modified marine environments.
 - These different levels of protection are assigned different water quality targets, and this will be considered in the design of the monitoring program and where sites are selected.
- Sample design consists of quarterly monitoring:
 - 4 inner harbour sites in the moderate protection zone
 - 3 sites on the boundary of moderate and high protection zones
 - 4 sites in the high protection zones, including 3 sites chosen as reference sites to indicate “background” condition
 - 3 light monitoring locations (above seagrass meadows) located within the high protection zones
- There are a number of environmental impacts or pressures from an operational Port that are limited to the inner Harbour, each with the potential to affect the physical and chemical condition of this area of the marine environment.
- Our focus is to measure the important physical and chemical conditions to ensure impacts to biological condition are understood to identify actions to minimize impacts as far as practical.
- This extract from the proposed sample matrix provides what is measured at four of the 14 monitoring sites and provides a good example of how the focus of different monitoring areas have a different focus.
- Two of the sites are on the border of the moderate and high protection zones and a broad suite of parameters are measured including concentrations of contaminants in water and sediments.
- The other two sites are above the seagrass meadows in the high protection zone and only light penetration through the water column is measured.

Implementation Plan

- Implementation of main program is expected to be over the first three years before baselines are established.
- Procurement will be subject to an RFQ across all three Ports potentially with an option of bidding for all or individual ports.

Committee discussion:

- Current baseline data will be fed into this program including periodically monitoring new sites.
- Southern Ports continuously strive to proactively monitor and protect the fragile marine environment around the port.

7. SOUTHERN PORTS UPDATE

Interim COO Rob Alexander provided the following update:

- Southern Ports (SP) are currently implementing an organisational structure redesign that will see several executive roles out for recruitment. The restructure will bring synergies through different departments at an executive level and will also see high level roles and investment in IT Department.
- Health and Safety Culture – SP CEO and COO recently visited all sites presenting a ‘safety road show’. The results will see initiatives introduced across the business around health and safety.
- SP Health and Wellbeing program has received good feedback from employees with a dedicated resource looking after all sites.
- Trade records - very strong year for trade throughout the three ports, nearly being our best year ever and breaking records on some commodity exports.
- Critical minerals are expected to continue to strengthen.
- Significant capital programs upcoming.
- Working with Horizon Power looking into options for renewable solar at the port.
- Upcoming DCN Awards. Southern Ports have been nominated for the following awards:
 - Port of the Year
 - Women in Maritime and Shipping (Chief People & Sustainability Officer Monica Birkner)
 - Young Achiever Award (Esperance Marine Pilot Callum MacAdie)
 - Environmental Award – Esperance Port Berth 2 upgrades
- Taylor St Jetty update – Southern Ports continue to work closely with relevant government departments and tourism operators to explore solutions and have also engaged with a consultant to look at potential concepts. Information has been sent to the Minister for review. Monthly inspections of the jetty will be ongoing until a permanent solution is reached.
- Tugboat Mooring – new storm mooring in the bay for tugboat, this will take some pressure off tug pen which is in poor condition.

8. CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE

- Media coverage report provided to members prior to meeting.
- Continuing to proactively seek media coverage.
- Annual Report completed and is available on our website. Link [here](#)

Esperance Agricultural Show

- Southern Ports held a stall at the recent show with a ‘People and Community’ theme. We received great community engagement, with commodities on display and activities for the youth, and gave out sustainable merchandise. Over 300 people entered our free raffle with it being won by an Ag society member.

Community Investment Program

- Current round of funding open, closing on 15 November.
- 13 groups in Esperance received funding in the last round which included a diverse range of applicants.

Awards

- As well as upcoming DCN awards Southern Ports Master Plan has also been nominated at the upcoming PIA awards.
- DFES Volunteer Employer Recognition Award for Emergency Response Team at Esperance Port.

Esperance Community

- Esperance Port took part in a Toy and Book drive with staff donating items for *National Child Protection Week*.

Stakeholder Engagement:

- CEO attended Goldfields Esperance Major Projects Conference in Perth and presented an overview of the investment and planning for the future in Esperance.
- COO attended Trans Safe Road Safety Forum and spoke on Hughes Road upgrades and other initiatives happening throughout the port.
- Marine team attended AMPI Conference where CEO also presented.
- Mission to Seafarers bus branding approved and signage will be completed in the coming weeks.

Committee discussion:

- Committee congratulated the port and the whole Southern Ports team on their recent nominations and continued hard work and initiatives in place.

9. MEMBER DISCUSSION/FEEDBACK & COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

- Rotary Club of Esperance received shire approval for New Years Eve fireworks. Rotary have recently engaged a new environmentally conscious fireworks contractor which will see biodegradable materials used, and less noise.
- On behalf of Rotary club thank you to Esperance staff that facilitated the recent Rotary Club port tour. Tour was immensely enjoyed by all attendees.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Esperance port is implementing 24/7 maintenance which will see 12 new roles. In final stages now and expect this to be in place early December.
- Apprentice program – new program for apprentices who have completed their 4-year apprenticeship will allow them the opportunity to stay on for an additional 2 years to further develop their trade skills.
- Terminal Operating System roll out – Comm Trac program will use real time data to assist customers to save money and improve efficiencies.
- Southern Ports will be taking part in the Christmas Pageant this year.
- Esperance Port has had some minor incidents/injuries recently. Management continue to drive the safety culture particularly in Esperance where we have the largest number of employees.
- Thanks to all who assisted with the Esperance show.
- The Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

Meeting Closed: 18:04 hours

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 31 January 2024