

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

Date: Wednesday, 01 May 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 Frank Roe Scott Bates Natasha Norrish Michelle Spicer Emma Sticken	Committee Member & PCCC Chair Committee Member & PCCC Deputy Chair Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Regional Manager, SPA Esperance Environmental Advisor, SPA Esperance Committee Secretary, SPA Esperance Business Administration Trainee, SPA Esperance
Apologies:	Kieth Wilks Alana Monaghan David Swan Ron Chambers	CEO, SPA Corporate Communications & External Affairs SPA Committee Member Shire Representative for PCCC

Meeting opened by Chairperson at 17:05 hours, who welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

Apologies were noted.

New employee and Business Administration Trainee Emma Sticken was introduced to the group. Emma will complete her traineeship with Southern Ports over a 24-month period.

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- None

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 14 February 2024

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 February 2024 were noted as approved via circular resolution on 29th February 2024.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- Varroa mite query – information about beehive monitoring and upcoming technology was relayed to the committee who then passed onto community member who initially had raised the query.

4. TRADE FACILITATION & SUPPLY CHAIN UPDATE

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

Current Trade:

- First Quantum Minerals (FQM) have advised its Ravensthorpe Nickel Operation will move into care and maintenance.
 - The decision is largely a reflection on the state of the global nickel market, with FQM's Ravensthorpe operation challenged with balancing low prices and high operating costs.
 - SPA is communicating with staff around any potential impacts, however we expect to absorb the operational impact by exploring opportunities within our multi-faceted and skilled workforce.
 - SPA will continue to look at the data and work through the announcement.

Committee Discussion:

- Q: does Sulphur or nickel provide majority of revenue with SPA personnel handling it?
 - mostly Sulphur handling that creates operational requirement among our workforce, and only represents around 3% revenue to SPA.
- Container vessels will cease for the time being. This is due to MSC vessels handling FQM cargo.
- Currently Nova nickel is sent to Kalgoorlie smelter, however depending on BHP movements going forward, there is potential for product to come through the port via rota box in the future.
- Reminder to committee members if any community concerns are raised, please do not hesitate to reach out.
- Fertiliser imports are slightly down on last year which is not unexpected due to lack of rain. Some fertiliser ships are booked for end of May.
- Grain remains strong for this year.
- Iron Ore strong at the moment and SPA continue discussions with MRL around what the future looks like.
- Spodumene will see a record this year, mostly out of Mt Marion and Bald Hill, with the future looking sustainable which is very positive.
- New Woodchip customer currently working through logistics of buyers for this particular grade of woodchip.

Potential New Trade:

- Discussions with Sulphur importers
- Enquires around containers by rail for import cargo such as acids, ISO tanks etc
 - early days however potential is there
 - potential issues could include shared rail
- Kaolin clay – Norseman

5. PROJECTS UPDATE

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

Current Projects:

- Container crane structural repairs continuing over the next 3 months during scheduled shutdowns. Only one (but potentially 2) shutdowns to go. All works to date have been completed successfully (CPC delivered the project safely, on time and on budget).
- Shed 3 recladding has commenced and is progressing well. Forecasting to finish ahead of schedule in mid-May.

- Operational Technology (runs conveyors/sensors etc) project has been tendered and now evaluating. We are negotiating final terms with the last 2 proponents. OT project will future proof our conveyor system.
- Shed 4 column repairs is complete. Potentially moving onto shed 5.
- CV26 gallery replacement is being fabricated. Finalising the program of works is in progress.
- Hughes Rd Stage one upgrade is scheduled for asphalt placement mid May. Stage 2 will look at upgrades to entry and exit points.
- Taylor St Quarters flooring scope is with our procurement team for tender. Works expected to start in July.
- Electrical workshop replacement scope is with our procurement team for tender.
- Crane rail repairs berths 2 and 3 are being prepared for tender in June.

Future Projects:

- FY25 – working through Hughes Road stages 2 & 3
- FY25 – will tender the engineering for Tug Pens – looking at potentially replacing tug pens.

Committee Discussion:

- Community question whether the Tug moored in the bay is used. The tug is rotated through and used often. There will be a second tug moored there soon.
- Great outcome that a port worker noticed the beetle on the vessel.
- Beetles were attracted to the ships lights.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Environmental Management provided the following update:

Events:

Minor events

- **Beetles reported on the deck of a vessel at Berth 3** (April). Discussion with the ships crew found the beetles to have appeared following arrival in Esperance, most likely attracted to the ship's lights. The beetles were sprayed with knockdown spray and collected. Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) Biosecurity Division were contacted, and they were able to identify the beetle as a local native species with no further action required which is a good outcome.
- **Small Beehive Reported in LRZ** (April) – located south of Shed 3 in sandy/rocky area. DPIRD were contacted and the hive was destroyed and sample taken and sent to Perth for investigation. DPIRD Biosecurity Officer advised the bees were European Honeybees.
- **Cape Barren Geese Onsite** (March) – accidental collision between Cape Barren Goose and a truck occurred onsite. Environmental Alert sent out and electronic sign at Hughes Rd entrance updated with a reminder for all drivers to give way to geese. The geese will often not move out of the way of oncoming vehicles. This incident involved goose running towards truck. DBCA notified about the deceased goose.

New Business:

- **DAFF Biosecurity Pest Inspection** – as part of the Ports Approved Arrangement for container handling, a biosecurity check was carried out on 20th February for pest insects and

plants which included ant trapping. Initial feedback from the day was that there were no pests found and no further correspondence has been received to date.

- **Berth 2 Storm DMT System** – ready for increased usage in the upcoming months when rainfall increases. Stormwater from the multi-user Berth 2, during rain events, is collected in a first flush tank, to be tested prior to pumping to the DMT filter, resulting in clean stormwater.
- **Biosecurity Beehive Monitoring Technology** – recent meeting with DAFF and several other WA organisations (NRM WA, DPIRD) to discuss interest in a trial of low-cost multi-sensor technology (developed by Vimana Tech) used in hives to detect varroa mite. Further information to be provided by DAFF later in the year on the outcome of a trial in NSW and ACT. The trial includes both sensor tech and traditional methods of testing for pests (alcohol wash) to assist in determining if the tech works. This new real-time ongoing monitoring could complement the existing inspections currently carried out by DPIRD at the beehives located at the border of the Port

Continuing Items:

- *No updates since previous meeting*

Committee discussion:

- Great outcome that a port worker noticed the beetles on the vessel.

7. SOUTHERN PORTS UPDATE

SPA Management provided the following update:

- Recent Strategy Workshops with leaders/managers looked at our current strategy model and potential new strategies which included sustainability initiatives and green energy.
- Operational Excellence – focus on how we can diversify and upskill our employee trade base and provide initiatives to compete with other service providers which in turn benefits the town.
- Trade and Investment – progress with diversifying the iron ore circuit which could create a pathway for another junior miner.
- IntelliPorts – project coming to a conclusion, expecting implementation date on 1 July. The project will deliver benefits across all areas of the business.
- Procurement Strategy – although majority of procurement is sourced locally, SPA is looking at ways to further assist local companies to bid on contracts, such as workshops for putting tender submissions.
- Community Investment Program – SPA continue to build on the program and how best to promote it.

8. CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE

SPA Communications team provided the following update to be included in the minutes:

- Our annual stakeholder and community satisfaction survey is now underway, with results due in June 2024. Feedback from the survey assists Southern Ports to improve. PCCC members may have already been contacted for feedback, as well as ~100 community members in Esperance.
- Corporate photo shoot at Esperance completed mid-February. Shots were taken of all major assets on site, our operations, key projects, and our people. These photos will be used extensively to promote the work of the port, including the upcoming annual report.
- Southern Ports had a Bronze Lonnie Award win for excellence in reporting for last year's annual report in the Government Trading Enterprise category for the second year in a row.

- Publicity/media relations to promote:
 - the Azamara Cruise ship visit
 - Esperance Parkrun launch (including participation from our team including our CEO, COO and Regional Manager)
 - Community Investment Program funding – including the Nulsen Primary School defibrillator and Golf Club sponsorship.
- The Communications team has been working closely with our Health and Safety team on some of their key projects including the Authority to Work and Field Leadership programs for our team.
- Currently preparing for upcoming events including Day of the Seafarer, Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week.
- In the latest round of Community Investment Program funding, close to \$75,000 was provided to 27 organisations and projects across the Great Southern, South West and Goldfields-Esperance regions.

In Esperance this included the following 11 groups:

ORGANISATION	PROJECT
Esperance Care Services Inc	ECS Community Children's Christmas Party
Esperance District Football Association Inc	Zone Carnival 2024
Esperance Golf Club	Esperance Golf Classic 2024
Esperance Netball Association - Development Committee	Esperance Netball Development Squad
Farmers Across Borders - Hay from WA Inc - as auspice for the Heatherbelle Gala	Heatherbelle Gala
Lions Club of Esperance	Replacement of Children's Play Equipment (Lion's Park Castletown)
Munglinup Bushmen's Association	MBA Easter Campdraft
Ocean Heroes Limited	Ocean Heroes Esperance
Rotary Club of Esperance Inc	Share Purchase of Defibrillator for Nulsen Primary School
Salmon Gums Primary School on behalf of five Mallee Schools and Lake King	AED Defibrillators
The Cannery Arts Centre Inc	(Biennial) Esperance Art Awa

Applications for the latest round of CIP funding closed yesterday, 30 April.

9. MEMBER DISCUSSION/FEEDBACK & COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

- QUBE trucks with grey container on them are specially designed sulphur containers. They provide both top load and side load.
- Discussion around the differences in product and costs of Sulphur imports from Canada and Qatar.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Seafarers Centre – SPA is pleased to confirm we have recently purchased 6 bicycles including helmets and locks to stay at the MTS centre for recreational use for Seafarers.
- 2973 Seafarers have been transported for shore leave since SPA purchased the new bus for the centre.
- David Swan has been reappointed as PCCC member (via circular resolution)

- Esperance port is the second largest spodumene exporter in the world.

Meeting Closed: 1804 hours

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 31 July 2024 (TBC)