

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

Date: Wednesday, 31 July 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 David Swan Ron Chambers Keith Wilks Scott Bates Alana Monaghan Shannan Beal Alex Leonard Michelle Spicer Emma Sticken	Committee Member & PCCC Chair Committee Member & PCCC Deputy Chair Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Shire Representative CEO, SPA Regional Manager, SPA Esperance Corporate Affairs Manager, SPA Community Relations and Partnership Manager, SPA Environmental Manager, SPA Esperance Committee Secretary, SPA Esperance Business Administration Trainee, SPA Esperance
Apologies:	Rod Taylor Frank Roe	Committee Member Committee Member

Meeting opened by Esperance Regional Manager Scott Bates at 17:05 hours, who welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.
 Apologies were noted.

1. WELCOME RE-APPOINTED MEMBERS

- Recently re-appointed (via circular resolution and CEO approval) committee members were noted:
 - Stephen Francis
 - Stephen Schmedje
 - Malcolm Heasman
 - Rod Taylor

2. CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR NOMINATIONS AND VOTING

- Stephen Francis nominated to continue as Chair on the committee, all were in favour and passed this motion.

- Stephen Schmedje nominated to continue as Deputy Chair on the committee, all were in favour and passed this motion.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- None

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 01 May 2024

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 01 May 2024 were noted as approved via circular resolution on 29th May 2024.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- None

6. TRADE FACILITATION & SUPPLY CHAIN UPDATE

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

Current Trade:

- Trade volume for FY24 finished at just over 13 million tonnes. Slightly down on budget but still a great result.
- FY24 trade records for Spodumene (1mtpa) and Fertiliser (272kt).
- Fuel strong at 400kt of diesel imports.
- Decrease in Sulphur imports and Nickel exports which is to be expected after FQM ceased operations at Ravensthorpe Mine in early May.
- Potential increase for Nickel in the future due to Kalgoorlie smelter closing.
- Decrease in Woodchips, with a potential vessel in September.
- Iron Ore slightly down on budget.

Potential New Trade:

- Liquid Fertiliser imports – working with customer through logistics.
- Nickel – although nickel prices are currently down, we are still holding discussions with potential customers for future trade.
- Discussions continuing with Kaolin Clay.
- Potential opportunity for lime bulkers to come through Esperance Port.

Iron Ore Update:

Southern Ports CEO and Esperance Regional Manager updated the group on the recent MRL announcement:

- In June, one of our major customers Mineral Resources Limited announced its intention to close operations at its Koolyanobbing site and cease Iron Ore exports from our Port of Esperance by the end of 2024 calendar year.
- We are expecting a significant impact at our Port of Esperance and across our wider business as well as local marine/rail service providers and the Esperance Region.
- There will be up to four million tonnes of Iron Ore exported through the Port of Esperance between June and the end of December.
- MRL's Iron Ore exports equates to approximately 36/37 vessels per annum and a significant percentage of Southern Ports (SPA) total revenue.
- SPA is confident we can approach this situation with learnings from 2018 when Cliffs ceased operations.
- We have secured a secondary junior Iron Ore exporter, Gold Valley (over four years) however it will not replace the volume loss.
- SPA will investigate new models for the Iron Ore Circuit to facilitate multiple users.
- The wellbeing of our workforce is first priority, and we will continue to engage constructively with the workforce and the union as well as the community.

- SPA will look at options to utilise skilled employees to maintain a backlog of required maintenance on assets and infrastructure throughout the port.
- SPA is conscious not to interrupt programs such as Community Investment Program, trainee and apprenticeship pathways.
- Reminder that the Port of Esperance is a facilitator of trade not a producer of trade.

Committee Discussion:

- The future of iron ore as a whole and price per tonne.
- IGO is currently the only Nickel exporter through Esperance Port.
- Mt Bevan Magnetite Joint Venture are working through pre-feasibility studies and have had funding approved for further studies. Although early days, SPA will continue to engage over the next few years.
- There are no government contingency funds to cover events such as the MRL announcement.
- PCCC members will ensure correct information is relayed to community members.
- Discussion around potential for additional grain exports through the port.
- SPA working through multiple options post announcement.
- SPA will continue to engage with the public at local events such as the Esperance Show, Newdegate Field Day, NAIDOC ceremony.

7. PROJECTS UPDATE

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

Current Projects:

- Hughes Road upgrades- Hughes Rd- punch list items being completed this week which will close out the practical completion. Documentation being finalised including as built drawing and MDR. Fantastic final result with major improvements. Stage two set to commence end of 2024/start of 2025.
- CV26 replacement- fabrication is now completed. Galleries will be transported from Armadale workshop to PoE next week. CRAW was completed yesterday with good discussion and results. Shutdown currently set for starting 4th September. With the upcoming drop in Iron Ore it will allow opportunity to access conveyors that have been in need of maintenance.
- Pile Wrapping- Franmarine are continuing to carryout pile wrapping works under berths 1 and 2. Next swing due to start 9th August. Have currently completed Berth 1 - 100 piles and Berth 2 - 148 piles.
- Additional Tug Storm Mooring in the bay - parts are currently in port at Fremantle awaiting release. Contractor estimates install in August.

Future Projects:

- Taylor St Jetty – house the Tug and Pilots boats and be utilised for tour boats passenger pick-up and set down, with a section available for public use.

Committee Discussion:

- As we see more green energy and wind farms, we could see more wind turbine blades come through the Port of Esperance.
- SPA continue to work with the Yacht Club committee around engineering of the rock breakwater that could potentially affect the marina. It was also acknowledged that the start tower with power will need to be relocated to the end of the new rock wall. The EBYC have also expressed concerns that the new rock wall may exacerbate silting of the flying fifteen jetty and the build-up of weed in front of the club.
- Budget approved for concept drawings on potential administration building works.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Environmental Management provided the following update:

New Business:

- **Berth 2 Storm DMT System:**

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 a 90% reduction in concentrations of ammonium from fertiliser going into the bay. This removal may drop off as the capacity of the media gets exhausted by fertiliser dissolved in stormwater. We are working with fertiliser companies to reduce the amount of fertiliser being tracked off the berth by the trucks.

- **GIS traffic light display of dust data:**

With levels defined by health criteria and linked to stevedoring actions is being sought for development by SP as per process in MWPA's grain dust management plan agreed with CBH and in use at Geraldton. Albany Environment Team also support approach taken by MWPA in working with CBH, with Bunbury still to respond, but Bunge are the operator there.

As well as standardising grain dust management, WA Ports are also looking to create a fund for laboratories to work together and agree on a standardised method to define the level of Dust Extinguishable Moisture in bulk minerals.

A joint trial notification on the Licence is being developed for Australian Kaolin as a dry bulk product via a rotating container device, for both Double Bell Resources and Australian Kaolin. Trials have shown low risk.

Continuing Items :

- DAFF indication that Beeright technology program is still being developed and not ready for trial in WA. But analysis by CSIRO is being undertaken and once complete we will hold further communication on organising a WA trial.
- Last week, Nickel concentrates from the Forresteria mine (West of Norseman) were exported in bulk for the first time into MV Bronze lady via rotating container technology, or Qube's Rotabox. The Environment Team has been working with IGO metallurgists to ensure compliance with the Licence conditions on product quality including respiratory hazards. Real time dust alarms were activated and checks on odour were also conducted during onshore winds. Loading proceeded without issue.

Environment Management System:

- External auditor is expected in late August to conduct a gap audit on our EMS.
- We will have six months to complete any required improvements then undergo an ISO certification audit.
- Improvements implemented in the last six months include an internal audit process which involves a deep dive every three months on one key environmental risk. This involves talking to the owners of the control actions and validating the risk rating.

Committee discussion:

- Varroa mite trial results still pending.
- Community comment that the large woodchip pile may contain too much moisture leading to mould. SPA confirmed Woodchip company have controls and sampling in place and are unaware of any mould issues.
- Discussion around Gold Valley Iron Ore location of the stockpile in Kalgoorlie and potential dust in product. SPA confirmed moisture controls are part of the licence and compliances must be met.
- Discussion around Marine Park. Consultation period is over and should be implemented by the end of the year.

9. SOUTHERN PORTS UPDATE

CEO Keith Wilks provided the following update:

- SPA continue to work through MRL announcement.
- Strategic Direction – working through a strategy refresh which will see an external facing document. Trade facilitation, operational excellence and sustainability remain our focus with additional pillars around connection to community and regions. Currently in solid draft and expected to be released in the next few months.
- Annual Stakeholder Survey – working through detailed presentation after receiving feedback earlier in the year.

10. CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE

SPA Communications team provided the following update:

Highlights:

- *FY24 Trade Records for Port of Esperance included:*
 - Spodumene exports
 - Fertiliser imports
 - Fuel imports
- *Seafarer Welfare:*
 - SPA sponsored Seafarer Welfare Conference which was attended by Marine Pilot Captain Callum MacAdie who also spoke at the conference.
 - Seafarer recreational bikes initiative launched by SPA in Esperance and now also in Bunbury. This saw a fleet of bicycles, helmets and locks purchased by SPA for the Seafarers centres for recreational use when Seafarers are ashore.
 - Day of the Seafarer on 25 June was observed by delivering cupcakes and cakes to all vessels alongside at our three ports.
 - International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) week of action : The ITF Australian Inspectorate attended our ports last week during their Week of Action as part of its “*Nowhere to Hide*” campaign to review pay and working conditions of seafarers.
- *Stakeholder Communications:*
 - Working though impacts of FQM and MRL including media and community.
 - Taylor St Jetty
 - Hughes Road Upgrades
 - Rebecca Lily Barge
- *Indigenous Engagement*
 - Reconciliation Week
 - Promoted Aboriginal procurement contracts including ETNTAC.
 - Promoted the \$2.4 million CV26 conveyor upgrades to First Nation Engineering.
 - Internal promotion of SPA policies and programs in Indigenous space.
 - Tjaltjraak supported through Community Investment Program grant for On-Country Community Event and Education support
 - NAIDOC
 - Coordinated and launched Cultural Awareness tours. Esperance Tours ran on Monday with 4 team members attending.
 - Attending Tjaltjraak NAIDOC event 12 August.
- Southern Ports a finalist in WasteSorted awards for Esperance’s Berth 2 renewal and stormwater treatment system.
- *Steve Lewis Regional Scholarship* Awarded to Lahni Davis studying Marine Science.

- Shannan Beal, Community Relations and Partnership Manager was introduced to the group. Shannan has recently joined the SPA comms team and will assist with community engagement, events, indigenous engagement and community investment program.

In the News:

- Mineral Resources Limited announcement to close Yilgarn Mine Hub.
- Nine trade records broken across Southern Ports.
- Southern Ports extends contract with Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal (ETNTAC) to maintain Port of Esperance grounds and gardens.
- Southern Ports donates bicycles to Mission to Seafarers for Seafarer use during shore leave.
- Latest beneficiaries from Community Investment Program (50 Goldfields-Esperance groups supported over the last year), including:
 - Funding for Australia's 'prettiest' park run, along Esperance foreshore
 - Equipment racking for Esperance Goldfields Surf Life Saving club
- Trade deal struck with Gold Valley Iron Ore to export through Port of Esperance
- Azamara Journey welcomed to Port of Esperance in the last cruise season.
- First Nations Engineering awarded contract for conveyor upgrades.
- Taylor St Jetty to be replaced.

CIP Program Recipients:

- Esperance and Districts Agricultural Society Inc
- Esperance District Football Association
- Esperance District Recreation Association
- Esperance Goldfields Surf Life Saving Club
- Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation
- Munglinup Primary School (on behalf of Mallee Schools - Scaddan, Salmon Gums, Condingup, Munglinup and Condingup)
- Shire of Esperance
- South East Vets Football Club
- Tangaroa Blue Foundation
- Western Australian Police Legacy
- Western Australian Seabird Rescue OBO Lori-Ann Shibish trading as Esperance Seabird & Waterbird Injury, Rehabilitation & Learning (SWIRL) Centre

Upcoming:

- Annual Report
- Newdegate Field Day
- Support to business on trade impacts
- Esperance Agricultural Show
- Stakeholder and community survey outcomes

11. MEMBER DISCUSSION/FEEDBACK & COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

- Missions to Seafarers continue to seek volunteers to assist with driving the bus for Seafarer's shore leave transfers – members are encouraged to promote this through their networks and within the community.
- Stephen Francis advised the group he is no longer in the rail industry at Pacific National Rail and has been newly appointed in an executive role with Master Butcher Group.
- Stephen Francis advised the group he is a newly appointed board member for ECCI.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- No other business

Meeting Closed: 1821 hours

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 30 October 2024 (TBC)