

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

Date: Wednesday, 30 October 2024
Venue: Southern Ports – Esperance Administration Boardroom
 Cnr Bower Avenue and the Esplanade, Esperance WA 6450
Time: 1700 hours

Attendees:	Stephen Francis Stephen Schmedje Malcolm Heasman Rob Horan David Swan Rod Taylor Ron Chambers Rob Alexander Greg Solly Alana Monaghan 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 Chief Operating Officer, SPA Operations Manager, SPA Esperance Corporate Affairs Manager, SPA Environmental Manager, SPA Esperance Committee Secretary, SPA Esperance Business Administration Trainee, SPA Esperance
Apologies:	Wayne Walter Frank Roe	Committee Member Committee Member

Meeting opened by PCCC Chair Stephen at 17:07 hours, who welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

Apologies were noted.

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- None

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 31 July 2024

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 31 July 2024 were noted as approved via circular resolution.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- Approval of renominating members: this raised discussion around avenues for members to encourage more people within their networks to apply for a committee position within the PCCC, with the aim being to gain a female presence.
- SPA confirmed they have recently reached out to rural and regional remote women's networks and indigenous representatives to encourage applying for a PCCC position.

4. TRADE FACILITATION & SUPPLY CHAIN UPDATE

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

Current Trade:

- Iron ore volume on the decline as expected post MRL announcement.
- First Gold Valley vessel last week – all went well, and this saw the first simultaneous iron ore users at the port which is a big step towards the potential facilitation of multiple junior iron ore miners in the future.
- Grain expected to pick up.
- Spodumene remains consistent.

Committee Discussion:

- SPA working closely with Gold Valley exploring options for potential increase in capacity and navigating economic challenges that come with the location and supply chain.
- Gold Valley ore quality suits handling of Esperance port and the moisture levels have been positive.
- SPA continue to work through options to facilitate multiple commodities and customers.
- Kaolin clay in the process of gaining final approvals.

5. PROJECTS UPDATE

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

Current Projects:

- Container crane infrastructure works nearing completion with the final shutdown scheduled for 12th October.
- Hughes Road upgrades stage one complete, stage two and three out for tender with commencement scheduled for February 2025.
- CV26 gallery replacement completed over a ten-day shutdown window.
- Pile wrapping works under Berths 1 and 2 – stage one is complete and saw 100 piles under Berth one and 148 under berth two completed. Franmarine onsite and will continue with stage two works which will see the completion of a further 140 piles on berth one and 177 piles on berth two.
- Additional tug storm mooring bollard in the bay – waiting on parts, current install completion estimate approximately 31 December 2024.

Future Projects:

- Electrical Workshop tender awarded to McMahon's with works expected to commence in the new year.
- Shed four cladding repairs – tender closes in two weeks, with works expected to commence in the new year.

Committee Discussion:

- Availability of contractors is improving. SPA continue working on strategic procurement to assist suppliers with access.

David Swan entered the meeting

- Operational Technology upgrade – design works have commenced with operational input onsite.
- Taylor St Jetty – funding confirmed, still working through the design process. The facility will be utilised for tour boats passenger pick-up and set down, with a section available for public use, as well as a replacement tug pen to house tug and pilot boats.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Environmental Management provided the following update:

New Business:

- **Respirable Crystalline Silica:** discussions underway with external experts, other WA Ports and DWER on how the WHS Regulations (2024) on Respirable Crystalline Silica are implemented in the handling of bulk minerals in WA Ports. The changes in legislation were in response to increased cases of silicosis in benchtop workers, however exposure in Ports is entirely different as the proportion of respirable particulates is much lower and there are many more layers of dust controls than in the benchtop industry. As a group, PortsWA will be working towards realistic and practical risk controls in relation to Ports' handling of bulk minerals.
- **Environmental Support:** coordinating environmental studies towards acquiring requisite approvals across the following projects:
 - Maintenance and Capital inner harbour dredging
 - Tug pen/Taylor Street Jetty redevelopment projects
 - CBH unloading grid upgrades
- **Ravensthorpe nickel mine closure:**
 - DWER support the proposed sulphur handling methods export the remaining sulphur in the shed.

Continuing Items :

- **Trial notification on the licence for Kaolin** for Double Bell Resources has progressed. The trial shipment notification to DWER is complete pending shipment and loading control details. First export shipment is expected in 2025.
- **BeeRight technology program for the varroa mites** No further update from DAFF. Will request a progress report and an estimation on when trial will be ready in WA.
- **Environment Management System:** In October, an external auditor conducted a gap audit under ISO certification audit on our Environmental Management System. The auditor did not issue any improvement actions during the site audit. However, the site procedural documents are under review and a few improvement actions expected.

Committee Discussion:

- **Swimming at Port Beach** was closed for a portion of time over two days recently as a precautionary measure to allow geophysical surveys to be undertaken at Taylor St tug pen proposed location.
- **Taylor St and Tug pen Project** – SPA has engaged a third-party specialist company to conduct a series of studies on sea life. Once results are received, a risk assessment will be conducted to determine if referral to the environmental regulators is required. However, the target is to understand and mitigate risk sufficiently to justify non-referral of the project.

7. SOUTHERN PORTS UPDATE

COO Rob Alexander provided the following update:

- Trade impacts:
 - Recent announcements from MRL, FQM and Arcadium will result in impacts for Esperance Port and Southern Ports as a broader business.
 - SPA continue to work through the process and impacts for our workforce, as well as working with the union to achieve timely resolutions for the workforce.
 - Committee comment around support from the community with the recent loss of trade and mine closures.
- FY26 strategy:

- Working through FY26 strategy with a session to be held next week with executives and management. We will continue to embrace the positives within our three ports as a whole and look for upcoming opportunities.
- Investing in our assets:
 - SPA continue to invest in our assets, with record capital set to be invested.
- Pursuing ISO certification for our environmental and health/safety systems, which although we are already largely compliant with, will see a best practice for how we manage risk.
- Audit for Asset Management Certification over the next week will see Southern Ports as the only port in Australia with certification.
- Gold Valley first shipment positive step for new trade.

Committee Discussion:

- Committee discussion around the recent trade loss and impacts for local suppliers such as Mackenzies Tugs. SPA continue to work with suppliers to navigate what the impacts will look like.
- Committee discussion around Lioneport Lithium and first shipment through Geraldton Port. Although SPA held discussions with Lioneport about Geraldton port was more cost effective for their specific operation.

8. CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE

Corporate affairs management provided the following update:

Highlights:

- Stakeholder engagement event in Esperance – new venue this year (Cannery Arts Centre) was well received with around 50 key stakeholders, port users attending along with SPA board and personnel.
- Waste Sorted Award winner for Berth 2 hardstand renewal project. Awards were attended by Environmental and Sustainability management.
- Gold Valley – first shipment left Esperance 26 October on MV Sifnos carrying more than 78,000 tonnes of iron ore from the Wiluna West in Northern Goldfields.
- Foodbank partnership renewed – Feedback from Esperance Care Services has been very positive. Last year our funding provided 400 food hampers to families in Esperance and we have matched the sponsorship for 2024-25.
- Esperance Show – Southern Ports held its usual stall at the 2024 Esperance Agricultural Show with fantastic community interaction.

In the News:

- Gold Valley's first shipment of iron ore.
- DCN 2024 Australian Shipping and Maritime Industry Awards finalists:
 - Safety Award: recognises initiatives, systems or policies that enhance safety.
 - Seafarers Welfare Award: recognises commitment to seafarers' mental, physical and pastoral welfare through in-house programs, sponsorships, or financial and moral support, as well as individual contributions to their welfare.
- Operational Technology contract announced
- Waste Sorted award winner
- Hughes Road stage one completion
- Treotham ship loader solutions

CIP Program Recipients:

- Beaumont Community Association Inc
- Esperance District Football Association

- Esperance Junior Cricket Association
- Esperance Primary School
- Esperance Soccer Association
- Esperance Theatre Guild
- Esperance Twilight Aerials
- Hopetoun Community Resources Centre Inc
- Nulsen Primary School
- Rotary Club of Esperance
- Shire of Esperance Edge of the Bay
- Southern Bowling
- Escare

Upcoming:

- Converge Esperance
- Breakwater works – area in front of SPA administration from 4 November – 20 December will be fenced off with restricted access to the grass, BBQ area, beach including the stairs into the water. Swimmers are encouraged to use other beaches along this area and foreshore.
- DCN Awards – finalists in two categories
- Ongoing support to business on trade impacts

9. MEMBER DISCUSSION/FEEDBACK & COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

- Discussion from members around supporting foodbank again this year and what a wonderful initiative this is for those in need.
- Rod Taylor on behalf of the Rotary club thanked SPA for supporting the new years eve light show. Further discussion around request for the port to dim lights to any extent possible so the show is more effective. SPA confirmed we would work with Rotary to accommodate where possible. Letter of request to follow from Rotary.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- No other business

Meeting Closed: 1749 hours

Date of Next Meeting: TBC