

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

Date: Wednesday, 29 January 2025
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 Wayne Walter Keith Wilks Greg Solly Shannan Beal Alex Leonard Emma Sticken	Committee Member & PCCC Chair Committee Member & PCCC Deputy Chair Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Chief Executive Officer, SPA Port Operations Manager, SPA Esperance Community Relations & Partnerships Manager, SPA Environmental Manager, SPA Esperance Business Administration Trainee, SPA Esperance
Apologies:	Ron Chambers Frank Roe Scott Bates Michelle Spicer	Shire President Committee Member Regional Manager Committee Secretary

Meeting opened by PCCC Chair Stephen at 17:05 hours, who welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.
 Apologies were noted.

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Stephen Schmedje and Rod Taylor stated that they personally know new PCCC applicant Murray McGregor.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 October 2024 were noted as approved via circular resolution.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- None

4. TRADE FACILITATION & SUPPLY CHAIN UPDATE

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

Potential Trade:

In discussion with several potential clients for a wide range of products including:

- Imports:
 - Sulphur
 - Quick Lime
 - Sulphuric Acid
- Exports:
 - Iron Ore
 - Nickel
 - Kaolin Ore
 - Heavy mineral concentrates
- Development Application in review for import and storage of liquid fertiliser.

Committee Discussion:

- Discussion about possible imports of liquid fertiliser and the associated logistics.
- The Sulphur remaining in Shed 5 following FQM mine closure last year was outloaded recently with the vessel sailing this morning. SPA is pleased with how loading went using container crane technology with no issues or incidents. SPA led the way with environmental controls and moisture application in the weeks leading up to loading, which prevented any dust issues.
- CEO Keith Wilks spoke to the group on the challenges SPA have faced in the last seven months with several mine closures and a decline in trade for the Port of Esperance. Nonetheless, this has provided opportunity for a strategic approach on improving and maintaining assets while they are accessible.
- Discussion around potential trade out of Esperance with Liontown Resources. The recent commencement of iron ore shipments from Gold Valley has shown that Esperance is a feasible logistics route for other mining firms in the state.
- SPA continue to support Gold Valley's ambition to expand their product volume coming through Esperance Port.
- SPA continue to explore trade options and demonstrate capacity and capability for new trade.
- Discussion around utilising shed space.
- Arcadiums' last vessel May/June 2025.
- State government is looking to support the Lithium industry with support packages.
- Voluntary redundancies commenced in December with approximately 30 employees (majority in Esperance) requesting a redundancy.
- As an organisation we are working through building resilience during this time.
- Apprenticeship and traineeship programs will continue.
- Bunbury and Albany ports continue with trade as usual, with Albany likely to see another grain record this year. Cruise ships continue to visit Albany on a regular basis with funding approved for a business case to replace Berth 1 & 2 which are 70-years old and nearly at end of life.

5. PROJECTS UPDATE

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

Current Projects:

- Breakwater Maintenance 2024-2025: works on Breakwater 3 are complete as are the main rock armour works on Breakwater 5. The remaining minor works on Breakwaters 5 and 4 will recommence in late February (due to contractor availability) with works planned for completion by Mid-March 2025.
- Shed 4 repairs
- Shed 5 blast and paint works continue now that the remainder of Sulphur has been outloaded.
- CV 40 blast and paint works.
- Following the completion of Hughes Road upgrades, we are now progressing port entry roundabout works.
- Some assets that aren't being used will be made redundant for the time being.

Future Projects:

- Berth 2 Container Crane Rail Remediation: contract has been awarded to Freyssinet for \$2.4M. Works are scheduled to commence in March/April 2025 (subject to operational approvals) and will continue for up to 20 weeks. Works will be planned around shipping where possible. Works involve the removal, remediation and replacement of the Container Crane Rails for the full length of Berth 2.
- Kandoo Crane – (WP10) Winch House. Detailed design is being finalised and reviewed by SPA's consultants BMT. Works are planned for April/May 2025; however, this is subject to budget approval and tender award as well as operational approvals. The works will potentially require two (2) shuts of a three (3) week duration to complete and will require balancing with trade to achieve optimum outcome on both sides.

Committee Discussion:

- Tug Pen and Taylor Street Jetty - current design will exceed budget allocation, SPA to revisit design to remain within budget otherwise source additional funds.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Environmental Management provided the following update:

New Business:

- **Event: Dropped Cannister into Esperance Bay by Fintran (CBH grain fumigator) in November 2024:**
 - Cannister found by member of the community 11 January 2025 at a groin close to Yacht Club.
 - Hazmat notice removed by DFES.
 - Department of Health updated the site approval requirements for Fintran's operations.
 - Fintran procedures have subsequently been updated and modified to prevent a repeat incident and ensure proper response should another event occur.
 - Discussion around public communication immediately after cannister was lost: while we are proud of the team's prompt action to protect public safety, it was later found that a special tool is needed to open the cannister, thus there was very little risk to the public.
- **Trial shipping notifications:**
 1. Australian Kaolin Clay
 2. Double Bell Resources
 3. Lioatown Spodumene product – preliminary
- Licence amendment for new boat maintenance area for works on lines boats.

- **Maintenance and Capital inner harbour dredging**
 - Funding implementation of the Marine Environmental Quality Plan to enable environmental dredging approvals is under final approval process. This will demonstrate the good condition of Esperance Bay and the inner harbour.
 - Indicative sediment survey in the berth pockets found no PFAS forever chemicals which is good news in our wider contaminated site reclassification.
- **Wider contaminated site reclassification of contamination risks has been progressing slowly with:**
 - Sampling to support reclassification of our land and contamination status works will start next week around the old front end loader yard which is the location for the new round-a-bout development as part of Hughes Road Stage 2.
 - Risk is looking low.
- **Developing internal media change-out process or new stormwater filter**
 - Media used in the new B2 stormwater filter has done a great job absorbing ammonium from our stormwater but is due for changeout. Quoted costs by the building contractor are cost prohibitive.
 - An alternative source of the media importing from Europe has been found cost effective and maintains maximum performance.
 - Our Maintenance Team will be trained in the process of media changeout
 - If this process is cost competitive it will potentially represent best available technology for reducing loads of dissolved contaminants in stormwater.

Committee Discussion:

- The new round-a-bout will be situated at the end of Hughes Road.

7. SOUTHERN PORTS UPDATE

CEO Keith Wilks provided the following update:

- *Refer to Agenda Item 2. The CEO provided some updates during the Committee Discussion.*

Further Updates:

- Australian Shipping and Maritime Industry Awards – National Awards.
 - Southern Ports received two highly commended awards for *Commitment to Safety* and *Seafarer Welfare*.
- Finalist in WA Business Awards for *Regional Business of the Year* Award.
- Digitisation work implemented last year is now established and we are starting to see the benefits.
- The State Government caretaker period will commence on 5 February 2025, ahead of the 8 March election. During this period SPA will be unable to make any major business decisions, however our finance and comms departments will be preparing a brief for incoming government on Southern Ports and our business.
- Southern Ports obtained Asset Management Certification (ISO 55001) in November 2024. We began the process 5-years ago, and although has been a long journey we have learned a great deal about our asset's life cycle, and how to maintain the required standard. We are only one of five ports worldwide to hold this certification, and we share this achievement with the Port of Melbourne in Australia. We strive to be conscientious asset owners and to provide services of good usable state to our customers. As an organisation, we should be leading the way as regulators for accreditation. We also continue to work toward environmental and safety accreditation.

8. CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE

Corporate affairs management provided the following update:

Highlights:

- Steve Lewis Regional Scholarship applications are open until 5 March 2025. Scholarship is open to undergraduate students in Goldfields-Esperance, Southwest and Great

Southern studying at Curtin either in Business and Law or Science and Engineering (both faculties cover a broad range of degrees that are relevant to Southern Ports operations). This is a wonderful opportunity for a young person to be supported through University as well as having summer holiday internship. PCCC members are encouraged to share information with networks that fall into this demographic.

- Southern Ports have been nominated into the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia for Asset Management Certification, to be announced later this year. Esperance Berth 2 renewal and stormwater drain project has also been nominated.
- Christmas giving from SPA
 - staff food drive which saw just under 100kg of food to vulnerable in our communities
 - Seafarers Hampers: the team in Esperance partnered with CBH, Mineral Resources, Gold Valley and Mission to Seafarers to compile and donate 200 hampers to ships in port over Christmas.

In the News:

- Corporate Foodbank Partnership delivered through Esperance Care Services.
- Keith Wilks elected as a director on Ports Australia Board.
- Awards mentioned above.
- Gold Valley's second (170,000 tonne) iron ore shipment departs Esperance.
- Flexible thinking allows iron-ore circuit to be used by two customers at once for first time.
- Luxury cruises Le Jacques Cartier making its first visit to Esperance.

CIP Program Recipients:

- 17 groups received funding last round:
 - Department of Communities – Child Support: *Kids in Care Christmas Party*
 - Escare Inc: *Mental Health Week Pop Up Cafe*
 - Esperance Basketball Association: *Basketball WA Country Championships*
 - Esperance Bay Yacht Club: *Motor replacement on Zodiac RIB rescue and support boat*
 - Esperance Care Services: *ECS Client (children) Christmas Party*
 - Esperance Clay Target Club: *63rd Annual Easter Carnival*
 - Esperance Community Arts: *Summer School 2025*
 - Esperance Deep Sea Angling Club: *Esperance Archipelago Offshore Angling Classic*
 - Esperance Primary School: *Tournament of the Minds International*
 - Esperance Senior High School: *Year 10 Careers Camp to Perth*
 - Esperance Toy Library: *Toy Upgrade*
 - Esperance Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation: *Esperance Fauna First Aid Station*
 - Ravensthorpe Hope Foundation Esperance: *RAA Community Stage Project*
 - Rotary Club of Esperance: *Annual Christmas Hampers and Toy run*
 - Surfing Western Australia: *Indigenous Surfing and Cultural Program*
 - The Cannery Arts Centre: *Cannery Shop*
- Funding provided - \$54,000.00
- Current round of applications closes 7 March. Encouraged members to share with their networks.

Committee Discussion:

- Esperance Shire 'Mingle with the Grant Maker' upcoming event.
- In November achieved Southern Ports achieved accreditation for asset management

9. MEMBER DISCUSSION/FEEDBACK & COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

- On behalf of The Rotary Club of Esperance:
 - Would like to thank Southern Ports for funding assistance of the New Years' Eve light show and lowering the lights throughout the port to improve spectator visibility. Additionally, Gold Valley Vessel contributed by shutting off most of the lights on the ship.
 - Would like to thank Southern Ports for funding assistance with the Australia Day event which Rotary has organised for 34 years. The event was highly attended, and Southern Ports banners were displayed around the event.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- New Application – Murray McGregor.
 - Committee members approved the new application and recommended endorsement by the Regional Manager and CEO.

Meeting Closed: 1757 hours

Date of Next Meeting: 14 May 2025