



Esperance Port Authority

Media Statement

Wednesday, 13 June 2007

Interim CEO Appointed

The Esperance Port Authority has appointed a new interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Port Chairman Jim Matijasevich said Mr Chris Drinkwater would start at the Port on Monday, 2 July and remain until a permanent CEO is appointed.

Mr Matijasevich said Mr Drinkwater, a principal consultant of Indec Consulting, has extensive experience in senior management including nine years as Chief Executive of two Australian ports, Hobart and Port Kembla.

“He will bring a high level of expertise to the Esperance Port to assist with managing it through a difficult period,” he said

“Mr Drinkwater will work with retiring CEO Colin Stewart, who leaves the position at the end of July after 23 years in the top job, and the Esperance Port Authority Board to address the challenges currently facing the Port and facilitate the necessary plans to implement changes and future growth.”

Mr Matijasevich said Mr Drinkwater was very experienced in working closely with staff and local communities to achieve the best possible customer service matching each export product’s supply chain, the port’s operations and the needs of the community.

“The Board is also currently undertaking an extensive nationwide recruitment process to find a permanent CEO,” Mr Matijasevich said.

“Advertisements have been placed in both State-wide and national publications to find the best person for the job.”

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Mr Chris Drinkwater – Curriculum Vitae

Principal Consultant – Indec Consulting
B Sc (Eng), MBA, FAICD, MCILTA



Summary

Chris has extensive experience in industrial engineering, project management, operations and systems management, and senior management including nearly nine years as MD/Chief Executive of two Australian ports. He has implemented productivity improvement programs, managed multi-skilled project teams, implemented cost-effective IT systems, successfully developed and implemented business plans and has developed strategic marketing and operations plans. The operations plans included emergency, business continuity and asset management plans.

Career Experience

Commencing his career as an Industrial Engineer, Chris managed many productivity improvement projects in textiles, manufacturing, steel-making, coal mining and ports industries. His move into management came with senior positions with the Maritime Services Board of NSW with responsibilities for trade development, supply chain analysis and pricing strategy.

Chris was appointed MD at Port Kembla, established a coal supply chain committee and became the first port in Australia to achieve ISO 9001 accreditation, as a marketing and staff development tool.

He served six years as CEO of Hobart Ports Corporation where significant new revenue streams were added including stevedoring, cold storage and airport management. As a strategic port manager, Chris gained wide experience in trade development, cruise ship marketing, stevedoring and terminal operations and supply chain management. He worked closely with staff and customers to achieve the best possible customer service matching each export product's supply chain and the port's operations.

Chris then spent nine months as Interim Chief Executive of Gladstone Area Water Board at the time of a severe drought and difficult customer relations.

Consulting History

Chris has now conducted many consulting assignments and a summary of these follows:

- **Ports Corporation of Queensland:** Reviewed the risk registers for PCQ and Abbot Point Coal Terminal and developed a Business Continuity Plan for the Terminal.
- **Port of Cairns Authority:** Reviewed the seaport's risk register and emergency plans and prepared an action plan to set in place a comprehensive and consistent set of risk-based emergency plans.
- **Port of Brisbane Corporation:** Regularly reviews the critical operational, engineering and financial processes for this leading Australian port to provide feedback and appropriate action plans on the effectiveness of these processes and readiness of the Corporation to maintain its' accreditation to ISO 9001:2000. Reviewed and reported on their emergency preparedness arrangements and prepared an emergency plan for the Port. Reviewed the risks on board the *TSHD*

Brisbane, updated the dredge's emergency plan, and prepared and implemented a Cataloguing System based on the ISM Code for the dredge.

- **Department of Infrastructure Victoria:** Undertook a technical peer review of the proposed Port of Hastings container terminal configuration and rail/road access arrangements, and prepared relevant feedback to the Department. The Port of Hastings is seen as the overflow port for the Port of Melbourne.
- **Sydney Ferries Corporation:** Provided assistance to the Director Safety, Environment and Risk to enable the Chief Executive, General Managers and staff to prepare for and pass the triennial ISO 9001:2000 Quality Audit in December 2005, developed follow-up systems improvement plan and assisted in a subsequent audit. The organisation had been through a period of considerable change following a series of incidents, which had received considerable press coverage.
- **Sydney Ports Corporation:** Prepared an operational and financial model for the proposed Enfield Intermodal Logistics Centre to cater for throughputs up to 300,000 teu's per annum.
- **Port Kembla Port Corporation:** Designed a break-bulk and container terminal handling up to 50,000 teu's per annum covering funding, hardstand, infrastructure, and manning requirements to operate profitably at this East Coast Australian Port.
- **RailCorp:** Provided assistance with the tender evaluation of Australia's largest PPP project involving the construction and maintenance of over 600 new rail carriages. Was specifically involved in the review of through-life support costs and the development of a payments regime for the availability and reliability of the new rail cars. Assessed injury management practices and recommended new ways to handle LTI's. Identified and quantified the Top 10 fleet-related in-traffic delays in the RailCorp's metropolitan electric fleet. Assisted in the development of a comprehensive incident response plan.
- **Rail Infrastructure Corporation:** Identified rail infrastructure requirements, determined the impact on the Hunter Valley rail network and developed the business case for rail access to a proposed third coal terminal in the Port of Newcastle.