



SOUTHERN PORTS AUTHORITY

Port of Esperance

MINUTES OF MEETING
SOUTHERN PORTS AUTHORITY, PORT OF ESPERANCE (SPA PoE)
PORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Date:	Wednesday, 22 March 2017	
Venue:	SPA PoE - Large Admin. Meeting Room Corner Bower Avenue and The Esplanade ESPERANCE	
Time:	16:35 hours	
Attendees:	Brett Thorp	Chamber of Commerce and Industry and PCC Chairman
	Phil Chalmer	Southern Ports Authority (SPA) – Director
	Nicolas Fertin	SPA – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
	Alan Byers	SPA - General Manager, Port of Esperance (PoE)
	Gary Wilson	SPA – Harbour Master / General Manager Marine
	Alex Leonard	SPA PoE – Environmental Manager
	Debbie Storm	SPA PoE – Executive Officer
	Matthew Scott	Shire of Esperance – CEO
	Kevin Hall	Shire of Esperance – Shire Councillor
	Wayne Halliday	Tourism Esperance
	John Richardson	Esperance - WA Farmers Federation (WAFF) and Locals for Esperance Development (LED)
	Shayne Flanagan	Goldfields Esperance Development Commission –CEO (<i>joined meeting at 16:50 hours</i>)
	Anna Morcombe	Local Environmental Action Forum (LEAF) (<i>joined meeting at 16:45 hours</i>)
Guest:	Priscilla Davies	Shire of Esperance – Manager Corporate Performance (<i>left meeting at 17:05 hours</i>)
Apologies:	Neville Welsh	Department of Environment Regulation (DER)

1. Opening

The meeting was opened and Attendees were welcomed to the meeting by Brett Thorp as Chair of the SPA PoE Port Consultative Committee (PCC).

Brett Thorp welcomed Priscilla Davies - Shire of Esperance (SoE). The Shire was seeking feedback from the Esperance Community on its Strategic Plan and had sought permission to speak to the PCC as its Member base included a good cross section of Community Stakeholders. In particular, the SoE was seeking feedback on a letterbox mail out questionnaire circulated recently.

A session was held from 16:45 hours until 17:05 hours facilitated by Priscilla Davies. Priscilla Davies left the meeting following this discussion.

Apologies:

Apologies were noted.

Pecuniary Interests:

Brett Thorp called for a declaration of pecuniary interests by Attendees. The declaration by Phil Chalmer of his interest in woodchips and blue gum trees in Esperance, as well as selling grain to CBH, was noted. No other pecuniary interests were declared.

Minutes of Meeting:

The Minutes of the PCC meeting held Thursday, 27 October 2017 were unanimously adopted.

2. Galaxy Resources (GR) – Mt Cattlin Spodumene (Lithium)

It was noted that two (2) shipments of spodumene have been exported through SPA PoE using Rotating Container Technology (RCT). While loading was not as fast as anticipated, there were no issues with the cargo or loading. Alex Leonard confirmed that the product quality was good, with the mica content being below the licence requirement level.

Brett Thorp advised that he has seen the product being exported, which is a much cleaner product than he previously viewed several years ago at the Galaxy mine site. In addition, the export of the product is being undertaken utilising RCT, which is a far better loading procedure.

Alex Leonard provided a brief overview of the receipt process for the spodumene at the Port. The product arrives in bulk by truck and is unloaded directly into Shed 6. Inside the shed, the trucks are washed down after being unloaded, and then undergo a further wash down of the tyres outside the shed to ensure no product remains on the vehicle. Road sweeping in the vicinity of the shed is undertaken to collect any residual product.

The product inside the shed is loaded into containers, which are transported to the vessel and are emptied into the hold of the vessel utilising the RCT.

3. Southern Pacific Fibre (SPF) - Woodchips

Phil Chalmer left the meeting for the duration of this discussion.

The fourth woodchip shipment for SPF is currently being loaded at the Port (on Berth One). Alex Leonard spoke on improvements being implemented to address localised dust at the transfer points, which had been a concern, and is now being controlled by water. There have been no issues with the SPF shipments.

In response to a question raised of the SoE, Matthew Scott indicated that no complaints had been received on the SPF stockpile located in Chadwick.

A discussion was held on the number of shipments anticipated for SPF. Alan Byers advised that eight (8) shipments have been forecast by SPF, totalling 350,000 tonnes per year. The lifespan of the export was dependant on the number of contracts SPF has been able to secure, as well as the density of the woodchips.

The Port has also recently received interest in logs being exported.

4. Update on Independence Group (IGO) and use of Rotating Container Technology

Alan Byers, Alex Leonard and the Port's Contract Service Manager, Greg Solly visited the IGO Nova mine site on 20-21 March 2017, staying overnight at the newly constructed facility.

The first copper sulphide shipment is scheduled to be exported from SPA PoE in May 2017. It is not known when the first nickel sulphide shipment will be exported from Esperance, as BHP Billiton Nickel West is currently purchasing all the nickel sulphide produced at the Nova mine. The first five (5) trial shipments for IGO will therefore most likely be copper sulphide. The product will be trucked to the Port in containers and emptied into the ship's hold utilising RCT, with the empty containers then returning to the mine site.

A discussion was held on the odour level of the nickel sulphide. Alex Leonard indicated that it was difficult to distinguish which product was which in the processing area on the mine site, as no obvious nickel odour was smelt. IGO is treating its nickel product with lime, which reduces nickel odour.

The RCT is able to operate with fogging units and misting fans if there are any wind or dust issues experienced during ship loading. Alex Leonard spoke on the stevedoring dust plan in place for each shipment and the odour control plan. Chemical measurements will be received from the mine site, which would provide data to indicate whether there are any concerns on odour levels. The cargo will be assessed on arrival at the Port, and if odorous the SPA PoE Wind Loading Arc Protocol will be instigated. Alex Leonard emphasised that the product is not toxic. He confirmed that a dust baseline has been established, and monitoring will be ongoing.

A discussion was held on seabed (sediment) monitoring undertaken by the Port. As sediment accumulates slowly it is considered that undertaking this monitoring annually was more than sufficient.

Special note: Since this meeting, IGO has confirmed that both copper and nickel sulphide will be exported in late May 2017.

5. Dust Monitoring Results

Alex Leonard also spoke on other changes being proposed to the Port's Operating Licence by the Department of Environment Regulation (DER), which does not require SPA PoE to continue to obtain dust gauge monitoring results. However, the Port will continue to do so for the present. The HVAS and TEOM dust monitoring is still part of PoE's licence requirement. Once the discussions on the operating licence are completed, the changes will be discussed at the PCC.

Alex Leonard indicated that a further respirable dust monitor (to detect below 10 microns) for nickel, copper, iron and lithium may be required to be installed near the SoE Office.

There has only been one (1) dust exceedance since April 2016, which was as a consequence of grain dust.

6. Media Articles

Alan Byers and Nicolas Fertin spoke on media articles since 28 October 2016 which involved the SPA PoE, being:

Article Title	Date	Publisher
Galaxy receives export approval	28 October 2016	Esperance Express
Family making waves with towage business	2 November 2016	Esperance Express
Submarine crew to gain Freedom of Entry to town	10 November 2016	Kalgoorlie Miner
Galaxy Resources – Mt Cattlin – Lithium Export	29 November 2016	ABC – various broadcasts
Goldfields could sustain third iron ore mine	30 November 2016	ABC Goldfields
Galaxy gives go-ahead to Mt Cattlin lithium via Esperance	1 December 2016	Kalgoorlie Miner
Southern port still hope for MinRes metal	8 December 2016	Kalgoorlie Miner
Independence Group reaches major milestone	15 December 2016	ABC Goldfields WA
Galaxy – first lithium shipment from Mt Cattlin mine	4 January 2017	ABC – various broadcasts
Hats off to recycling at the Port of Esperance	6 January 2017	Esperance Express

Article Title	Date	Publisher
Single Harbour Master to oversee three ports	12 January 2017	ABC Great South WA
Tug in the right direction	13 January 2017	Esperance Express
Lithium miner boasts first ship	13 January 2017	Esperance Express
Direct to vessel grain service a success	31 January 2017	Albany Advertiser
Flooding	13-14 February 2017	ABC – Various broadcasts
Galaxy – First Quantum hampered by flooding	15 February 2017	The West Australian
Flooding	16 February 2017	ABC South West
Flooding forces closure of grain lines	16 February 2017	Farm Weekly
Hectic grain export program to continue	16 February 2017	Farm Weekly
Rain stops spodumene at Mt Cattlin	16 February 2017	Kalgoorlie Miner / The West Australian
Back in Business	17 February 2017	ABC Goldfields – Esperance
Port opens heart to program	17 February 2017	Esperance Express
Memorial for Aboriginal tracker Tommy Windich unveiled in Esperance	20 February 2017	The Australian
Tommy Windich Cultural Precinct opens	20 February 2017	Esperance Express
Southern Ports helps build Tommy Windich memorial	20 February 2017	Media Release
Interview with Aboriginal elder Doc Reynolds	21 February 2017	ABC Esperance
Esperance Port expansion (various reports)	21 February 2017	ABC Radio – various broadcasts
Galaxy Resources shipment avoids costly detour	28 February 2017 / 3 March 2017	Esperance Express
Esperance Port reopened	2 March 2017	ABC Esperance

Nicolas Fertin spoke on the establishment of a Communications Team within SPA and the standardisation of newsletters issued by the three (3) SPA Ports. Each Port now produces a "Port Talk" Newsletter which is kept to one page and published in their local paper(s).

He also spoke on media monitoring undertaken and in particular positive media received.

7. Other Business

- *Change in Minister* – Shayne Flanagan spoke on the recent change in Government, with the GEDC now reporting to the Hon. Alannah MacTiernan as Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Minister assisting the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade. Matthew Scott advised that the SoE also now reported to a new Minister, being the Hon. David Templeman as Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the Arts.
- *Tourism Esperance* – Wayne Halliday thanked the Port for their ongoing assistance with the cruise ships industry and in particular mentioned bringing the MV Astor alongside Berth Three, at no charge, due to inclement weather.

When a vessel is berthed it is a much better experience for passengers, and he believes more money is spent in town. Nicolas Fertin reaffirmed that the Port core function is to facilitate trade, which includes cruise ships. Gary Wilson spoke on cruise ship industry which is looking at niche markets such as smaller ports to visit.

- *Grain* – John Richardson spoke on the recent rain which has encouraged farmers to plant more grain, especially canola.
- *SPA Harbour Master* – Nicolas Fertin spoke on the appointment of Gary Wilson as the SPA Harbour Master, covering all three (3) SPA Ports. The Marine Team in Esperance still includes three (3) Marine Pilots.
- *Trade Facilitation* – Nicolas Fertin spoke on the introduction of spodumene export through SPA PoE and the use of Shed Six for this product. The shed had remained vacant for nine (9) years, with export of this product now possible due to an improvement in product quality and introduction of the latest technology.
- *Largest Vessel to Berth in Esperance* – Nicolas Fertin spoke on the Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC)'s container vessel - MV E.R. Long Beach - which berthed in Esperance in March 2017. At 299.97 metres in length, it was the largest vessel to ever berth at the SPA PoE. While only marginally bigger than the cape class iron ore vessels, it looked much larger due to the containers on board. Nicolas Fertin indicated that MSC's inclusion in bringing vessels into Esperance, as part of their regular container vessel route, was significant as SPA PoE is currently the only regional port they call into.

A discussion was held on opportunities available within the Goldfields-Esperance region to take advantage of this situation, including grain in containers. The discussion included how the 'grain in containers' industry came about and its potential.

- *Hughes Road Upgrade* – Alan Byers spoke on changes being made at the SPA PoE to improve traffic management, which included the removal of internal fencing and realignment of roads. In particular, a change to the traffic flow along Hughes Road was discussed, with traffic entering the Port through CBH and travelling out along Hughes Road. This would provide an advantage to CBH who would then be able to feed their bins from both ends, and assists the Port as the upgrade to Hughes Road could avoid disturbing the gas and power lines. The one way flow of traffic would also improve safety.

Meeting Closed: 18:10 hours

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 28 June 2016
Time: 17:00 hours