



SOUTHERN PORTS AUTHORITY

Port of Esperance

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

Date: Thursday, 21 April 2016

Venue: SPA PoE - Large Admin. Meeting Room
Corner Bower Avenue and The Esplanade
ESPERANCE

Time: 17:00 hours

Attendees:

Brett Thorp	Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Chairman)
Phil Chalmer	Southern Ports Authority (SPA) - Director
Nicolas Fertin	SPA – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Alan Byers	SPA PoE – General Manager Ports
Caroline Aylott	SPA PoE – Environmental Technical Officer
Debbie Storm	SPA PoE – Executive Officer
Matthew Scott	Shire of Esperance – CEO
Kevin Hall	Shire of Esperance – Shire Councillor
Basil Parker	Shire of Esperance – Shire Councillor
John Richardson	Esperance - WA Farmers Federation (WAFF) and Locals for Esperance Development (LED)
Shayne Flanagan	Goldfields Esperance Development Commission (GEDC) – CEO
Gary Johnson	Local Environmental Action Forum (LEAF)

Apologies:

Alex Leonard	SPA PoE – Environmental Manager
Wayne Halliday	Tourism Esperance
Milton Valli	Tourism Esperance
Lindy Shipard	LEAF
Anna Morcombe	LEAF
Dr Graham Jacobs	Member for Eyre
Christiane Smith	Representing Graham Jacobs – Member for Eyre
Clarrie Green	Department of Environment and Regulation (DER)

1. Opening

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

Apologies:

Apologies were noted.

Correspondence:

A letter was received by Email on 21 April 2016 from Lindy Shipard – LEAF nominating Anna Morcombe as the PCC Delegate and Gary Johnson as Deputy Delegate.

Motion to Accept Nominations: John Richardson
Seconded: Unanimously accepted by Attendees.

Gary Johnson was welcomed to the meeting and introduced to Attendees.

Pecuniary Interests:

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

Minutes of Meeting:

The Minutes of the PCC meeting held Wednesday, 23 March 2016 were adopted.

2. Update on Mineral Resources Limited (MRL) Proposals

Alan Byers indicated that there have been no developments on the export proposals for MRL for Iron Ore or Lithium Concentrate Export since the last PCC meeting held on 23 March 2016.

3. General Mining (GM) – Mt Cattlin Spodumene (Lithium)

Alan Byers indicated that there have been no developments on this export proposal since the last PCC meeting held on 23 March 2016. The Port will ensure that the PCC is provided with a sample of this product, when available. GM is looking to extract the mica from the product.

Shayne Flanagan indicated that the GEDC undertaking work in relation to a downstream chemical process to produce lithium hydroxide, a form that will make it readily available to make batteries in Australia. New technology is being investigated by the CSIRO with the Curtin University.

4. Dust Monitoring Results

The Port has not started the sampling as yet with the additional Air Quality Monitors. However, IGO personnel are due on 3 May 2016 to start this process going forward.

There have been no dust exceedances recorded since the last PCC meeting on Wednesday, 23 March 2016 (utilising existing equipment). It was noted that dust exceedances have halved when compared to the same time last year, attributed to a possible improvement in grain quality and variable wind speeds.

Rotating Container Technology (RCT):

A discussion was held on the reason for installation of the additional Air Quality Monitors at the Port. Brett Thorp will liaise with Gary Johnson to provide him with information on the RCT being proposed.

5. Media Articles

Alan Byers spoke on three (3) recent articles appearing in the media, being:

- ***Port Readies for Emergencies*** – The Port undertakes Emergency Response Exercises on a regular basis, including for possible Oil Spills within the Port Harbour. A discussion was held on a bloom of jellyfish recently that looked very similar to an oil spill. A discussion was held on the purpose built protective oil retention boom. In addition, Harbour Masters from all Western Australian Ports attend a rigorous exercise every two (2) years. The next exercise due will involve equipment missing and the need to fly in emergency equipment.

The Australian Maritime Security Association (AMSA) – which is a Federal organisation – undertakes a lot of training for this type of incident, as invariably Ports become the agency that is the first response to an incident.

- ***Production Restarts at Mt Cattlin*** – This article indicates that GM will be exporting through the Port of Esperance. However, nothing has been approved as yet.
- ***Ravensthorpe Miner in Fine Fettle*** – This article relates to First Quantum Minerals (FQM). A sulphur vessel has been scheduled for next week. Containers are being imported / exported through Fremantle Ports at present.

There are three (3) services out of Fremantle Ports per month and it is believed FQM are using this avenue to improve their cashflow position. There is only one (1) service out of SPA PoE per month. There is not a lot of difference in cost between the two Ports.

6. Other Business

Multi User Iron Ore Facility (MUIOF):

Shayne Flanagan asked for an update on the MUIOF Project. Nicolas Fertin indicated that negotiations had ended with the Preferred Proponent due to the current iron ore prices.

Woodchips:

(Phil Chalmer left the meeting for the duration of this discussion)

It was noted that Southern Pacific Fibre (SPF) is looking to undertake a trial shipment of woodchips in June 2016 over Berth Two utilising similar equipment to that used by Australian Plantation Log Exports (APLE) in July 2015. However, SPF has invested in a new purpose built shiploader and envisages using this unit for their next shipment over Berth One in August 2016. They will be utilising a double truck that drives over the hopper.

A discussion was held on the stockpile at SPF's yard and condition of woodchips in view of the strong dry winds being experienced in Esperance.

PortLink:

Shayne Flanagan spoke on the main focus by the GEDC over a number of years, being the PortLink Study to construct an Intermodal Terminal in Kalgoorlie for the handling of containers. The Study focussed on the road and rail alignment from the Goldfields to the Port of Esperance. The Port was closely involved with the GEDC in this study.

The PortLink Study cost an estimated \$5 – 6 million and has concluded that it is not feasible to construct the infrastructure needed, break up an existing supply chain or cause interruption to miners. A discussion was held on a Meekatharra, Wiluna, Pilbara sealed road (Great Northern Highway) linking mining services to the Pilbara Region. The report is being finalised and will be released.

Black Faced Cormorants:

John Richardson asked for an update on the Black Faced Cormorants. Caroline Aylott indicated that the purpose built structure is still not being used by the birds. The Port undertook a trapping programme last year and removed feral cats from the area. However, it appears that new marauders are now at the Port. There have been reports from Employees that they have seen a fox in the area, at night. A cat/fox trap is being purchased.

Matthew Scott spoke on the Esperance Tanker Jetty and recent enquiry as to whether the Esperance Tanker Jetty is a migratory nesting site for these cormorants.

Regional Stakeholder Function – Esperance:

Nicolas Fertin spoke on a Regional Stakeholder Function to be held on Wednesday, 4 May 2016 to be hosted by the SPA Board of Directors. The Minister for Transport, the Hon. Dean Nalder will be attending the function, and also meet with the SPA Board on Thursday, 5 May 2016 during the SPA Board meeting in Esperance. Brett Thorp and Shayne Flanagan have been invited, but are not able to attend. The PCC will be represented by Shane Liddelow – GEDC.

Format of PCC Meetings:

John Richardson commented that the new (shorter) format and timing of the PCC meetings were working well.

Meeting Closed: 17:40 hours

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 29 June 2016
Time: 17:00 hours