



SOUTHERN PORTS AUTHORITY

Port of Esperance

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

Date: Wednesday, 24 August 2016

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

Time: 16:30 hours

Attendees:

Brett Thorp	Chamber of Commerce and Industry and PCC Chairman
Phil Chalmer	Southern Ports Authority (SPA) - Director
Nicolas Fertin	SPA – CEO
Alan Byers	SPA - General Manager Ports, Port of Esperance (PoE)
Alex Leonard	SPA PoE – Environmental Manager
Matthew Scott	Shire of Esperance – CEO
Kevin Hall	Shire of Esperance – Shire Councillor
John Richardson	Esperance - WA Farmers Federation (WAFF) and Locals for Esperance Development (LED)
Anna Morcombe	Local Environmental Action Forum (LEAF)

Apologies:

Debbie Storm	SPA PoE – Executive Officer
Shayne Flanagan	Goldfields Esperance Development Commission – Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and PCC Deputy Chair
Wayne Halliday	Tourism Esperance
Gary Johnson	LEAF
Dr Graham Jacobs	Member for Eyre
Christiane Smith	Representing Graham Jacobs – Member for Eyre

1. Port Tour

Members were taken on a bus tour of the Port during which Alan Byers described recent changes to the Port including:

- The proposed location for the truck weighbridge on the truck exit point of the Port to the west of the sulphur shed;
- New Sulphur spill tray seen in operation whilst unloading sulphur from MV Pacific Constant on Berth 2;
- Levelled and sealed areas opening-up access to Berth 1 for Woodchip loading operations and container storage;
- Area levelled (demolition of Berth 2 amenities building) behind Berth 2 for container storage and relocation of road parallel to rail;
- Works being completed to assemble the woodchip loader on the Black Swan Shed Pad that will operate around CBH structures on Berth 1.

2. Opening

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

Apologies:

Apologies were noted.

Pecuniary Interests:

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-Port Consultative Committee:

The Minutes of the PCC meeting held Thursday, 29 June 2016 were unanimously adopted.

Motioned by: Alan Byers

Seconded by: Kevin Hall

3. Update on General Mining / Galaxy Resources – Mt Cattlin Lithium

Galaxy Resources were unable to attend to present their proposal therefore Alex Leonard provided a summary of the proposal to date. Alan Byers also provided a summary of the changes in ownership back to Galaxy now that 96% of shares have been acquired following their purchase from General Mining. Galaxy intends to export their product through the Port of Esperance. It is likely that Qube will be the stevedore. Providing Galaxy remove the mica in their new processing plant, environmental risks of handling the product through the Port via enclosed storage and Rotabox are likely to be low. As soon as the new processing plant is built, Galaxy has been requested to contact the Port so a second visit to the mine can be arranged so that assessments on the handling properties of the product can be completed. Environmental approvals are currently sitting with the Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) who has been asked to expedite the assessment and not mix the approval timelines with its own licence re-formatting process.

John Richardson asked if the mist sprays on the Rotabox would be activated at all times. Alex Leonard indicated that if any dust was observed then they would be activated, but given spodumene is relatively benign in comparison to nickel concentrates, the misting sprays will not be operated at all times during loading.

4. Dust Monitoring

Alex Leonard provided a summary of the upgrade of monitors measuring respirable (particulates <10 µm). The technology of the current "TEOMs" (Tapered Element Oscillating Microbalances) has been updated and spare parts are no longer available for maintenance. As a result the more accurate "BAMs" (Beta Attenuation Meters) that are being used in other licenced facilities intend to be acquired and installed. DER is aware of the request for amendment of the licence allowing for this transition.

Also mentioned were discussions with several service providers on data management systems involving the Ports of Albany and Bunbury. The prompt for these discussions were requests from DER and IGO that the Port of Esperance again provide live information on respirable dust measured via the TEOMs/BAMs on its website. This will help demonstrate the low risks associated with the commencement of the IGO nickel outloading operations.

The system will also increase the efficiency of data management by allowing direct import of laboratory results and reduce other data handling errors.

Dust monitoring results since March 2016 have resulted in a very low rate of dust exceedances, probably due to it being exceedingly wet since this time. Phil Chalmer asked what had caused the recorded exceedances. Alex Leonard indicated it was mainly bushfires or grain loading with no exceedances directly related to the Port's activities.

5. Southern Pacific Fibre (SPF)

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

Alan Byers described the first SPF shipment of 30,000 tonnes of woodchips exported in June as a relatively smooth operation without any environmental issues including dust and noise. The additional monitoring conducted for this shipment will continue for the first three SPF shipments. This will be followed by a licence amendment application to the DER for ongoing trade. It is hoped that improvements in loading rates will be achieved with the new shiploader currently being assembled on the Black Swan Shed pad. When the new shiploader is used in future shipments, a ship loading spout and jet slinger will also compress the product in the hold and reduce the potential for dust in comparison to the telestacker used for shiploading in the previous shipment. The telestacker is now only used for stockpiling purposes at the woodchip yard.

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

Alan Byers indicated IGO are progressing well at the mine, and are assessing tenders on the Mine to Port Logistics Supply. Indications are that the first of five trial shipments of nickel from the Nova Mine for IGO are on course for January or February 2017. It is likely that DER will be requested to amend the licence for ongoing trade after only three of the five shipments to minimise interruptions to trade while the assessment is conducted. All the trial shipments will require intensive and extensive monitoring to be conducted.

7. Media Articles

Alan Byers spoke on recent articles appearing in the media, including Greg Solly Operations Manager being in the Esperance Express during the recent visit of Qube to successfully trial their Rotabox on the Port's container crane. An article discussing IGO's current project status was very positive as was an article covering the recent shipment of woodchips. The final media stories all related to SPA's ongoing sponsorship of local organisations and events.

8. Other Business

No other issues were raised.

Meeting Closed: 17:40 hours

Date of Next Meeting: 27 October 2016