



SOUTHERN PORTS AUTHORITY

Port of Esperance

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

Date:	Wednesday, 25 March 2015	
Venue:	SPA PoE - Large Admin. Meeting Room Corner Bower Avenue and The Esplanade ESPERANCE	
Time:	15:40 hours	
Attendees:	Brett Thorp Alex Leonard Debbie Storm Matthew Scott Kevin Hall Ron Taylor Wayne Halliday John Richardson	Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Chairman) SPA PoE – Environmental Manager SPA PoE – Executive Officer Shire of Esperance Shire of Esperance Local Environmental Action Forum (LEAF) Tourism Esperance Esperance - WA Farmers Federation (WAFF) and Locals for Esperance Development (LED)
Apologies:	Phil Chalmer David Horton Neil Pearson Michelle Crisp Clarrie Green Phillip Jeffries Rob Horan Dr Graham Jacobs Shayne Flanagan	Southern Ports Authority – Director SPA PoE – interim Chief Operating Officer SPA PoE – Acting Chief Operating Officer / General Manager Operations Local Environmental Action Forum (LEAF) Department of Environment and Regulation (DER) DER Shire of Esperance Member for Eyre Goldfields Esperance Development Commission (GEDC)
Guests:	John Ipsen Clayton Fredericks Ian Knobel	Southern Pacific Fibre (SPF) – Chief Executive Officer SPF – Chairman SPF – Operations Manager

1. Opening

The meeting was opened and attendees were welcomed to the meeting by the Esperance Ports Sea and Land (EPSL) PCC Chairman, Brett Thorp.

Apologies were noted. In particular, Brett Thorp advised that SPA Director, Phil Chalmer rang him and would like to remain a Member of the SPA PoE PCC, but was not able to attend this meeting. It was noted that the GEDC has now been included as a member.

Pecuniary Interests

A discussion was held on Pecuniary Interests and the (previously declared) Pecuniary Interests of Phil Chalmer in relation to blue gum trees was noted. No other Pecuniary Interests were declared by attendees.

2. New Terms of Reference for SPA PoE PCC and Election of Chairman

Due to the amalgamation of the Ports of Albany, Bunbury and Esperance into the Southern Ports Authority, which occurred on 1 October 2014, new Terms of Reference (ToR) are required for the SPA PoE PCC. Brett Thorp confirmed receipt of the new ToR from the Port. A discussion was held on the draft ToR and it was agreed that this document would be reviewed and adopted at the next SPA PoE PCC.

A letter from each of the Community Groups of the SPA PoE PCC is required for the next meeting, nominating a Delegate and Deputy.

It was agreed that Brett Thorp was to remain as Chairman of the SPA PoE PCC in the interim and an election take place at the next SPA PoE PCC meeting for this position.

3. Southern Pacific Fibre – Presentation to the SPA PoE PCC

Guests joined the meeting 15:50 hours

John Ipsen introduced representatives from SPF and provided background information on the previous experience of each attendee. It was noted that John Ipsen has previously been involved in the Albany Port - Woodchip Terminal (Plantation Pulpwood Terminal), as well as ITC Limited's operations in Esperance.

A slideshow presentation was given to the SPA PoE PCC by SPF on the current status of their proposal to export woodchips through the Port of Esperance. A handout of this presentation was given by SPF to attendees.

It was noted that:

- SPF has now secured funding (100% backing) and is ready to proceed.
- Land has been purchased at Chadwick, Esperance for the purposes of a woodchip stockpile facility. SPF is in discussion with the Shire of Esperance at present, to obtain the necessary approvals.
- Infrastructure at the Port would be limited to a mobile Shiploader used to export product over Berth One. There would be no stockpile of woodchips on Port land which reduces the exposure for dust generation. Woodchips would be bought into the Port by truck and loaded straight onto the vessel.
- Trees will be chipped in the field and then trucked to Chadwick for further screening and resizing if necessary. Moisture would be maintained on the open stockpile at Chadwick, and exposure to dust would be minimised as the 'sawdust' would remain in the field.
- Fumigation of woodchips, using pyrethrum, would be required for the export of the product to China but not Japan. Pyrethrum would be applied to the top layer of woodchips (once loaded) and would be restricted to the relatively small area between the woodchips and the vessel's hatches. There would be no use of Methyl Bromide in the process.

A discussion was held on the number of truck movements, both from the field to Chadwick and from Chadwick to the Port, as well as potential increase in noise exposure at the Port which was considered to be minimal. It was noted that an amendment was required to be sought to the Port's Operating License to export the product. SPF will be seeking approval for three (3) trial shipments to be undertaken.

SPF outlined their Traffic Management Plan which included liaising with the local Community to minimise the impact of trucks carrying woodchips by scheduling to avoid School Bus times, liaising with CBH and shutting down operations for three weeks during December and January which is the peak grain harvest period. A Tree Harvest Plan will be submitted to the Shire of Esperance prior to operations commencing.

Questions / Comments

Brett Thorp thanked SPF for their presentation and spoke on previous concerns relating to woodchip export proposals.

On the basis that there would be no stockpile or resizer at the Port, no bulldozers working the stockpile, reduced exposure to dust and Methyl Bromide was not being used to fumigate the woodchips, the SPA PoE PCC did not perceive there to be an issue with their proposal but would contact SPF if any concerns are raised.

It was agreed that a press release would be made by SPA PoE PCC on this topic. SPF provided their approval for the Presentation to be released on the Port's website.

SPF left the meeting at 16:55 hours

4. Tanker Jetty Island (TJI) Demolition Update

SPA PoE Program Manager, Matthew Devenish joined the meeting for duration of discussion on this item (from 16:55 hours until 17:12 hours)

Matthew Devenish provided a slideshow presentation on the current status of the TJI Demolition Project and community consultation which has taken place on the welfare of the black-faced cormorants nesting on the TJI.

An outline was provided on the demolition proposal which would endeavour to retain sections of the jetty as a recreational dive location. The demolition will occur between April and June 2015 to ensure the fledglings have left the site, and before breeding starts again. A Contractor, licensed for this type of work has been engaged.

It was noted that no environmental approval is required for the TJI Demolition. The Port would provide an alternative nesting site so the Community can continue to observe these birds from the shore.

A discussion was held on the development of an existing nesting site located at the end of the Port's breakwater near Berth Three. Enhancements would be made to the site to reduce exposure to the birds from predators such as feral cats.

Wood from the TJI would be gifted to Community Groups or Schools.

Matthew Scott asked for the Port to ensure that the TJI was clearly identified in any media statements to avoid the misconception that the Shire's Tanker Jetty was being demolished.

On behalf of LEAF and its representatives, Ron Taylor thanked Matthew Devenish for the consultation on this project, particularly LEAF's concerns for the birds.

5. Dust Monitoring Results

Alex Leonard provided an update on dust monitoring results by way of a slideshow presentation. It was noted that dust exceedances between 2010 and 2015 were mainly attributable to the Esperance Port Access Corridor construction works (by Main Roads) and grain dust associated with CBH operations.

Alex Leonard spoke on an initiative being considered by SPA PoE to annex Berth 1 from the Port's Operating License due to grain dust generated by CBH Operations. However, the Port will not proceed further with this initiative until after the Licence Amendment for SPF has been assessed by DER. A discussion was held on the fogger trial undertaken by CBH which only provides limited benefit in dust reduction in light wind conditions. No objections were raised during the meeting.

Action Items:

- Debbie Storm to forward a copy of the draft ToR to each SPA PoE PCC member, including the GEDC.
- A letter is to be sent by each of the Community Groups noted in the draft ToR, nominating a Delegate and Deputy to the SPA PoE PCC.
- A letter is to be sent by SPA PoE to the Shire of Esperance seeking participation by the Chief Executive Officer and a Shire Councillor in the SPA PoE PCC.
- A Press Release is to be prepared by the SPA PoE PCC Chairman in relation to SPF.

Meeting Closed: 17:25 hours

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 24 June 2015 at 15:30 hours