



# SOUTHERN PORTS AUTHORITY

Port of Esperance

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

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, 23 March 2016	
<b>Venue:</b>	SPA PoE - Large Admin. Meeting Room Corner Bower Avenue and The Esplanade ESPERANCE	
<b>Time:</b>	17:00 hours	
<b>Attendees:</b>	Brett Thorp Phil Chalmer Nicolas Fertin Katie Daly Alan Byers Catherine Field Debbie Storm Kevin Hall Lindy Shipard Wayne Halliday Christiane Smith Clarrie Green	Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Chairman) Southern Ports Authority (SPA) - Director SPA – Chief Executive Officer (CEO) SPA – Human Resources Manager SPA PoE – General Manager Ports SPA PoE – Environmental Technician SPA PoE – Executive Officer Shire of Esperance – Shire Councillor Local Environmental Action Forum (LEAF) Tourism Esperance Representing Graham Jacobs – Member for Eyre Department of Environment and Regulation (DER)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Alex Leonard Matthew Scott Basil Parker John Richardson  Michelle Crisp Dr Graham Jacobs Shayne Flanagan	SPA PoE – Environmental Manager Shire of Esperance – CEO Shire of Esperance – Shire Councillor Esperance - WA Farmers Federation (WAFF) and Locals for Esperance Development (LED) LED Member for Eyre Goldfields Esperance Development Commission (GEDC) – CEO
<b>Absent:</b>	Shane Liddelow	GEDC Regional Manager

## 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). Katie Daly and Catherine Field were 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.

## 2. Update on Mineral Resources Limited (MRL) Proposals

Alan Byers provided an update on the MRL proposals to export iron ore and lithium (spodumene) through the SPA PoE.

### ***Iron Ore Export***

The Port is continuing to work with MRL and the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) on this proposal. The DER Works Approval is currently on hold pending a decision on where the Bottom Car Dumper (BCD) is to be located. There are currently three (3) options under consideration for the BCD location, as well as options being considered for storage of the product.

A discussion was held on timelines for this Project, particularly in view of the recent media statement(s) made by MRL, and MRL's presentation at the Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECCI)'s Over The Horizon Conference. It was noted that these announcements by MRL were a little premature.

Project Timeline: Earliest by the last quarter of 2016

### ***Lithium Concentrate Export***

It was noted that this Project is in the early stages of discussion. Before the DER Works Approval can be submitted there is a need for storage options to be agreed, as well as what out-loading method will be used. MRL would like to commence product export before July 2016 which is too early for approvals to be finalised through Esperance. It is possible that MRL will look to export through another Port until such time as the Esperance Export Proposal is finalised.

### **3. General Mining – Mt Cattlin Spodumene (Lithium)**

General Mining (GM) also gave a presentation at the ECCI Over the Horizon Conference. Geographically, Esperance is the closest port to the Mt Cattlin Lithium mine, previously developed by Galaxy Resources. However, no formal approach has been made by GM to SPA PoE at this stage, although Nicolas Fertin indicated that he had met with them subsequent to the Conference.

Phil Chalmer and Brett Thorp expressed concern on the mica content of the Mt Cattlin spodumene. In 2010, when a proposal had previously been submitted by Galaxy Resources, a different product quality to what was being mined was presented to the Esperance Ports Sea and Land (EPSL) Board of Directors and Port Consultative Committee. It was only when the Port and representatives from the PCC went to the minesite, to view the mine and product, that the product quality and extent of the mica content was revealed.

Early indications are that GM will be changing the process at the mine to remove the majority of mica flakes (by use of a floatation process).

It was noted that while Galaxy Resources did not export product through Esperance, they did eventually export seven (7) shipments through the Port of Bunbury, using different loading methods as the Port of Bunbury already had approvals in place to export spodumene, albeit a very different product to the Mt Cattlin spodumene.

### **4. Berth 2 Shiploader**

Alan Byers spoke on a recent article that appeared in the West Australian Newspaper and Kalgoorlie Miner advising that the SPA PoE was "*in a race against time to fix its bulk loader to facilitate the first shipment from the soon to be restarted Mt Cattlin mine*". However, no contact had been made by the Media with the Port to verify whether this report was correct. SPA PoE is not racing to resurrect the Berth 2 shiploader referred to.

### **5. Dust Monitoring Results**

Catherine Field spoke on three (3) dust exceedances during February 2016 which can be attributed to a variety of causes including:

- Dry dusty conditions;
- Grain shipments; and
- Hughes Road Upgrade Project commencing.

She indicated that the pattern was typical for summer, with high winds and dry conditions resulting in an increase in road dust, notwithstanding that the Port uses water and a sealant on its internal gravel roads.

As previously reported, five (5) new High Volume Air Samplers (HVAS) have been installed next to the Port's existing monitors. These will eventually be run by Independence Group (IGO) to obtain background levels on nickel dust before they commence shipping operations.

Training was undertaken by the Port's Air Quality Monitoring Equipment Maintenance Technicians, Ecotech with IGO and SPA PoE Staff to ensure that the Port and IGO are both using the same process. SPA PoE is also reviewing its procedures to ensure it continues to reflect the latest standards.

Commercial Terms are currently being negotiated with IGO before monitoring commences.

The HVASs to be used by IGO differ from the existing units used by the Port, in that they contain filter paper which can be analysed for PM10 total nickel dust. The Port's HVAS utilise filter papers to record TSP (Total Suspended Particles) as well as total nickel dust. The Port does record PM10 dust, but it is not analysed for individual components.

## 6. Media Management

Alan Byers spoke on recent articles appearing in the media, being:

- *SPA PoE Emergency Response Team (ERT) – ERT Training* is conducted at the Port each Friday, usually involving 5-6 Employees. On 17 February 2016, a particular exercise was held involving a dummy being dropped 18 metres into the hold of a vessel and subsequently being 'rescued' by the ERT. A journalist from the Esperance Express Newspaper had been invited to view this particular exercise.
- *Woman rescued from the incoming tide* – Late on 2 March 2016, the Port received a call from the Esperance Police seeking help from its ERT to rescue a local woman who had slipped off an embankment near Salmon Beach and was clinging to rocks near the waterline, in an inaccessible area. The newspaper article on the ERT Training alerted the Esperance Police to the skills and equipment held by the Port's ERT in this type of rescue operation. Three (3) members of the ERT subsequently descended the rock-face to assist with the rescue of the woman at approximately 23:30 hours, in wet and dark conditions.
- *Quick response to damaged containers* – The Port had already initiated the management of this matter with Merchant Shipping (who owns the containers) and Western Area Limited well before the media article was published. A number of suspect containers were withdrawn from service, and Merchant Shipping had since introduced 500 new containers into the container stream. The containers had become damaged through wear and tear, noting that nickel is a corrosive product. Merchant Shipping has been refurbishing old containers using a fibreglass liner.

SPA PoE has also recently commissioned a 'spill trailer', which it had been developing for some time, which is a unit that can be used to transport damaged containers while containing spillage. A photo of the spill trailer was circulated to Attendees for information.

- *Lithium deal puts fix onus on Esperance* – This article was a good example of the Media running with an article, without substantiating its content. Brett Thorp indicated that he has the same problem in his Real Estate Business with the Media misquoting and distorting facts.

This item will remain on the SPA PoE PCC Agenda in order that the SPA PoE has an opportunity to discuss with the PCC what is actually happening at the Port, rather than what has been printed by the media.

## 7. Other Business

- *Climate Change* – Lindy Shipard spoke on World Climate Talks which took place in Paris recently where the topic of Global Warming was raised. The Australian Government indicated its support in reducing emissions below 2%. Lindy Shipard queried whether the Port would support this initiative.

Catherine Field spoke on Port activities already being undertaken to reduce environmental impact and reports to Government what it is doing, including under the National Pollution Inventory (NPI) reporting and National Greenhouse Energy Reporting (NGER).

NPI reporting has been undertaken by the Port since the year 2000. SPA PoE is one of the few Ports that do undertake this reporting. NPI deals with emissions, including diesel and unleaded petrol fumes. Information is publically available on the NPI website.

Interestingly, even though the Port has increased cargo throughput, it has not increased its diesel usage. Twelve (12) years ago the Port switched from obtaining power from diesel generators to the Esperance Power Stations' Natural Gas Turbine Generators. Port power consumption was discussed, and it was suggested that this be measured as a percentage against Town usage.

Catherine Field outlined some of the initiatives undertaken at the Port to reduce emissions including the transport of nickel in containers, replacement (when due) of old light globes and fluorescent tubes with LED lighting to reduce consumption. All used globes are taken to the Wylie Bay Recycling Station.

The Port is also required to report to the Water Corporation each year on water usage. Scheme water is used to suppress iron ore dust within the Port. Approx. 70 water metres, used to track water usage, have been installed to date including a 'smart metre'. Spray nozzles within the iron ore circuit are being looked at to achieve a finer spray, thereby reducing water usage. Storage tanks are used to capture rainwater which, combined with treated water from the Port's Waste Water Treatment Plant, is used to suppress dust on roads.

Lindy Shipard spoke on the use of natural gas by the Power Station and queried whether, as part of the community, whether the Port would look at a Renewable Energy Target. Catherine Field indicated that the Port would consider all beneficial options. For general information, emissions from the Esperance Power Station should also be available on the NPI Website.

**Meeting Closed:** 17:45 hours

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday, 21 April 2016  
Time: 17:00 hours