

MINUTES

Port of Newcastle Community Liaison Group

Date: Monday 16th April 2018

Location: Travelodge, Newcastle

Chairperson: Lauren Eyles, Executive Manager Communication, Port of Newcastle

Attendees:

Member	Representing
Geoff Crowe (GC)	Port of Newcastle, CEO
Robert Aitchison (RAI)	Business / Tourism, All Australian Journeys
Rick Banyard (RB)	Correct Planning and Consultation for Mayfield Group
John Thacker (JT)	Carrington Community Centre Management Committee, Chairperson. University of the Third Age, President.
John McLeod (JM)	Newcastle Rowing Club, Carrington Community Council
Nicole Guyder (NG)	Office of the State Member for Newcastle, Electoral Officer (Alternate for Tim Crakanthorp)
Clare Monkley (CM)	Throsby Basin Business Chamber, President
Lyn Kilby (LK)	Greater Lifestyle of Wickham Group
Nick Moretti (NM)	Koppers Carbon Materials and Chemicals, Operations Manager
Trudie Larnach (TL)	Port Waratah Coal Services, Environment and Community Manager
Richard Howard (RH)	Clark Shipping Australia, Director
Michael Frost (MF)	Stolthaven, General Manager
Graham Hardes (GH)	Carrington Community Council.
Sarah Kiely (SK)	Port of Newcastle, Communication Officer. Minute Taker.

Apologies:

Member	Representing
Tim Lees	Honeysuckle Community Group
Anita Hugo	Hunter Business Chamber
Dr Richard Finlay-Jones (RFJ)	CLEANaS, Co-Founder. EcoEnviro, Director. Dixon Park Surf Life Saving Club, Member. Newcastle Stand Up Paddle Club, Co-Founder, Surf Rider's Assoc.
Wayne Diemar (WD)	HunterNet, Project Director
Julie Kearney (JK)	Stockton resident. Newcastle Surf Life Saving Club
Sonia McKay (SM)	Roads and Maritime Services, Principal Manager, Boating Operations Branch
Susan Bradley (SB)	Parks & Playgrounds Movement. Throsby Villages Alliance
Greg Gocher (GG)	Thales, Project Manager Maritime / Ship Repair

Absent:

Member	Representing
Jill Gaynor (JG)	City of Newcastle, Manager of Strategic Planning Services
Nathan Juchau (NJ)	Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group, Health, Safety & Environment Manager
Paul O'Rourke (PO)	Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club. Chief Executive Officer
Emma Fensom (EF)	Port Authority of NSW, Chief Operating Officer – Newcastle and Yamba

1. Welcome and Introductions

- LE welcomed the attendees and new member Graham Harde, representing the Carrington Community Council.

2. General Business

- There were no actions to note from the previous meeting.

Port of Newcastle Update – Geoff Crowe (GC), Port of Newcastle Chief Executive Officer

- PON remains Lost Time Injury free. GC noted PON is always looking at ways it can improve safety and encourages staff to report hazards or incidents.
- GC noted that PON had organised a port-wide litter clean up with port tenants on April 20. Participating port businesses included NCI, Orica, Ameropa, Qube, Linx Cargo Care, Sims, Conports, Kooragang Bulk Facilities, Thales, Newcastle Yacht Club, Koppers, Robert Carr Associates, Cargill, Macsteel International and Port of Newcastle. PON staff would be targeting the southern and northern breakwaters and areas around Walsh Point. A barbeque and the presentation of the inaugural 'Litter Legends' trophy would be held at the Newcastle Yacht Club following the clean-up. LK mentioned that she would like to know what kinds of rubbish was collected as she was keen to educate the City on what eventually ended up in Throsby Creek and also the harbour.
- GC discussed recent work to promote the capability of the Port of Newcastle including PON's participation in the Australian Logistics Council Forum held in Sydney in March. PON would also be exhibiting at the MegaTrans transport forum in Melbourne in May. GC noted these forums provided an opportunity for PON to engage with all levels of the logistics industry.
- PON has made submissions regarding the [Draft Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan](#) and the [Draft Freight and Ports Plan](#). Both plans are available on Port of Newcastle's website. GC mentioned that PON's submissions were aimed at making sure opportunities for the Port and the region were put on the NSW planning agenda.
- GC noted that PON was finalising its port economic impact study which would be released in the near future. The study showed that port activity contributes \$1.6 billion and 9,000 jobs to the Lower Hunter each year, with the coal and agricultural industries contributing many billions more.
- On the trade front, GC mentioned that Aurizon's newly built coal wagons had been received at Port of Newcastle in early April.
- PON was continuing to review and finalise the details for the Newcastle Cruise Terminal construction tender. GC discussed the 2018-19 cruise season, noting that PON was expecting 16 day visits in 2019, up from an average of 10 cruise ships per annum. The return of the *Radiance of the Seas* to the Port for repair work was also mentioned.
- GC advised that the replacement of the K2 ship unloaders was progressing. New grabs were due to arrive in May 2018 to provide business continuity during the deconstruction of the two existing ship unloaders and conveyor infrastructure. GC noted that it was a \$33 million project and was due to be delivered by the end of 2019. RH asked what the new unloaders would be like and GC responded that they would be faster and more efficient than the current unloaders. It was mentioned that the K2 and K3 berths would be rebranded as the Newcastle Bulk Terminal.
- PON is currently reviewing tenders for Stage 2 of the Mayfield Services Project which would include the installation of cables from the Ausgrid substation at Mayfield West to a new substation near the bulk liquids precinct.

- GC noted the rock revetment work underway at Walsh Point. The work was being carried out as there had been loss of land at Walsh Point due to tidal movements. A tree line was also to be installed along Walsh Point. RB asked if Walsh Point would be reopened to the public. GC responded that the land was currently leased. GC also mentioned the single palm tree that is located on Walsh Point which is a historical point of interest as it had belonged to a manager that used to live on the site.
- GC mentioned that applications for PON's Community Partnerships Program were currently open. LK asked who was on the review panel for the Community Partnerships Program. GC responded that LE, SK and himself were involved, as well as PON staff with a mix of backgrounds and interests. LK noted that the waterline around the Port was of significance to local indigenous people and there were a number of heritage artefacts that needed preserving. GC noted that the Newcastle Port Community Contribution Fund may be a good avenue for funding.
- GC discussed the Port's year to date trade figures. Coal was steady and non coal was slightly down on last year due to the slow down in wheat exports. Bulk liquids and fertiliser were still going strong.
- LE advised that PON had joined the newly formed Stockton Coastal Interagency Advisory Committee to assist the government agencies who are overseeing the response to erosion at Stockton Beach.

Q&A

- LK asked how PON's dredging was going in relation to the large vessels that were visiting the Port. GC advised that there hadn't been much rainfall and the dredge was maintaining its usual circuit.
- RH asked GC for his perspective on the forecasting and reforecasting of coal exports. GC advised that coal was steady and there had been reasons for the slight declines seen in previous years, such as an industrial relations issue, that had now been resolved. Going forward, PON expected growth in coal exports. GC mentioned that a new operator, MACH Energy, would commence exports in late 2018. TL also noted that PWCS expected a steady rise and incremental growth in coal exports.

3. Presentation

Port of Newcastle's Submission re: the Draft NSW Freight and Ports Plan

Geoff Crowe, Chief Executive Officer.

- GC provided the CLG with an overview of the Port's submission to the Draft NSW Freight and Port's Plan. [Port of Newcastle's submission](#) requested that the NSW Government:
 - Provide a state-wide solution to freight, utilising the existing capacity within ports and their supply chains.
 - Protect ports and road and rail supply chains from urban encroachment.
 - Plan for development projects identified by the Port.
 - Provide a level playing field for a Newcastle container terminal.

Q&A

- RB noted the existing opportunity for the Port of Newcastle in containerised cotton exports that were being railed straight past the Port. GC noted that the key issue was that PON needed a level playing field.
- RH asked if works would be required at the entrance to the Port to enable the development of a container terminal. GC responded that no works were required at the entrance, however there were some spots in the channel that would require widening to accommodate larger vessels.
- RA asked what the depth at Port Botany was. GC responded that he wasn't sure.

- RB noted that Ro-Ro expansion should be focussed on the Basin area.
- RA asked of air quality monitoring beyond the coal dust monitoring would be undertaken. LE noted the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage coordinated the air monitoring network. It was noted that the volume of shipping associated with a container terminal would be low – i.e. at full capacity, a 2 million TEU container terminal would generate about 2 container ships per 24 hours on average. RB noted that PON provides environmental reporting under the [Mayfield Concept Plan](#) which is available on PON's website.

4. Other Business

- TL advised that PWCS had released its [Sustainable Development Report](#). The Report was aligned with the United Nations sustainability goals.

Next meeting

Monday 18th June 2018

Travelodge

** Attendance is by Port of Newcastle's invitation.