

MINUTES

Port of Newcastle Community Liaison Group

Date: Monday 14 August 2017

Location: Travelodge, Newcastle

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

Attendees:

Member	Representing
Geoff Crowe (GC)	Port of Newcastle , Chief Executive Officer
Lyn Kilby (LK)	Greater Lifestyles of Wickham Group. Throsby Villages Alliance.
Gaetan Amodio (GA)	Stolthaven. Project Manager.
Robert Aitchison (RAI)	Business / Tourism, All Australian Journeys
Mike Baldwin (MM)	Roads and Maritime Services , Boating Operations Branch
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
Tim Lees	Honeysuckle Community Group
Nicole Guyder (NG)	Office of the State Member for Newcastle , Electoral Officer (Alternate for Tim Crakanthorp)
Claire Monkley (CM)	Throsby Basin Business Chamber
Sarah Kiely (SK)	Port of Newcastle , Communication Officer. Minute Taker.
Greg Gocher (GG)	Guest speaker - Thales.

Apologies:

Member	Representing
Susan Bradley	Parks & Playgrounds Movement. Throsby Villages Alliance
Michael Frost	Stolthaven , General Manager
Sonia McKay (SM)	Roads and Maritime Services , Principal Manager, Boating Operations Branch
Emma Fensom (EF)	Port Authority of NSW , Senior Manager Port Services
Trudie Larnach (TL)	Port Waratah Coal Services, Environment and Community Manager
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.
Julie Kearney (JK)	Stockton resident. Newcastle Surf Life Saving Club
Jill Gaynor (JG)	City of Newcastle , Manager of Strategic Planning Services
Richard Anicich (RAN)	Hunter Business Chamber , Immediate Past President
Sonia McKay (SM)	Roads and Maritime Services , Principal Manager, Boating Operations Branch
Wayne Diemar (WD)	HunterNet , Project Director
Paul O'Rourke (PO)	Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club. Chief Executive Officer

Absent:

Member	Representing
Richard Howard (RH)	Clark Shipping Australia , Director
Nathan Juchau (NJ)	Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group , Health, Safety & Environment Manager

1. Welcome and Introductions

- LE welcomed the attendees and guest speaker, Greg Gocher (Thales).
- LE also welcomed new members Paul O'Rourke (Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club) and Tim Lees (Honeysuckle Community Group).
- There were no actions from the last CLG meeting.

2. General Business

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

- GC noted that PON had now remained LTI free for three years. Fresh ideas and thinking were welcomed to ensure PON did not get complacent. Safe Work Month would be marked by PON in October 2017.
- PON's customers were having another strong trade month. GC mentioned year-to-date non coal trade was up 36% compared to last year and there was continued growth in coal, wheat, bulk liquids, fertiliser and steel. Wheat exports have had a very strong start to 2017 and bookings were high at PON's grain terminals for the rest of the year.
- Growth in fertiliser trade went 'hand-in-hand' with the strong wheat exports and the K2 / K3 common user berths remained very busy.
- GC noted the first shipments of wind turbine components for the Sapphire Wind Farm had commenced. GC mentioned that he had visited the wind farm site near Glen Innes. It was good to see the White Rock project, including the logistical challenge of transporting the components, featured on the 7Mate television show, Outback Truckers.
- *HMAS Wollongong* was in the port over the weekend for a crew recreation visit.
- GC discussed the resolution of the water pooling and drainage issues that had been occurring at Selwyn Street, Mayfield. HDC's remediation of the nearby Intertrade site had now rectified the issue, which would improve safety during rain events for vehicles requiring access to the Mayfield site.
- The *David Allan* was back on the water following a recent lay-up, which included the 48,000 hour overhaul of the Wartsila main engines.
- GC mentioned Shipping Australia would host a biennial Newcastle luncheon on 25 August for members. GC would be a guest speaker and looked forward to showcasing the Port of Newcastle, alongside Aaron Johansen, CEO of Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group.
- GC also noted that the coal industry and PON would be welcoming the Australia-Taiwan Business Council to the port in September.
- GC noted that Thales Australia and the NSW Government were investing in a major marine ship repair and maintenance facility at Carrington.
- GC noted that extensive planning continued towards finalising the cruise terminal design. PON was also engaging with Borderforce around its specific requirements.
- Tenders for the Carrington Engine House restoration project closed on 20 July and PON is currently evaluating the tenders received.
- GC mentioned that PON had made a submission to the Federal Government's Inquiry into National Freight and Supply Chain Priorities, highlighting the port and the region's capacity and potential. The inquiry will help inform a national strategy.
- The Hunter River Health Study report released by the Office of Environment and Heritage was discussed. The report notes that there has been an improvement in water quality in the past decade

due to changes in portside land use, improved site management practices through pollution reduction programs, better monitoring and regulation of discharges and remediation of contaminated lands and sediments.

- PON will invest nearly \$30 million to upgrade ship unloading equipment at the Kooragang 2 berth which will deliver best practice in safety and environmental performance, and greater efficiency for customers. Work will commence next year and PON will continue to work with customers to deliver service continuity.
- GC mentioned the next round of funding for the Community Partnerships Program was due to open in September.
- PON's community newsletter would arrive over the next week or so. Feedback and story suggestions were welcomed.
- GC confirmed that Port of Newcastle was continuing its sponsorship of the Newcastle Jets. Port of Newcastle is proud to partner with the Jets and he wished the team all the best in the upcoming season.

Q&A

- RA asked how much the K2 replacement would cost and GC advised \$31 million would be invested in the project. The amount would be broken down into components for construction and equipment purchase etc.
 - CM asked whether the old K2 unloader would be reused elsewhere in the port. GC noted that it would likely go to scrap due to its age.
 - JT asked how many naval vessels called at the port each year. GC responded that there were currently around half a dozen per year.
 - JM asked about PON's involvement in the industrial action at the Mayfield berth following the first wind turbine shipment. GC explained that it was a matter between the union and the shipping line
 - LK noted that the Newcastle Netball Association was experiencing difficulty in sourcing sponsorship funding for their elite players from local businesses. LK encouraged port businesses to consider sponsoring the club. LE invited Lyn to provide contact details for the Club.
- RB asked if the upcoming Super Cars event would have an impact on the working harbour. GC responded that the Port would continue to operate. MM mentioned the Super Boats race in the harbour scheduled during the event did not receive an Aquatic Licence. MM reiterated that no shipping movements would be impeded by the Super Cars event. RMS would be promoting a booking system for yachts and other recreational vessels planning on viewing the race from Newcastle harbour.

3. Presentation – Thales (Greg Gocher, Project Manager – Maritime/Ship Repair)

- GG provided an overview of Thales' history and plans for developing the Carrington site, both on and off the water. He discussed the 20-year project that would guide the development of the site and how it would bring maritime skills back to the Hunter region.

Q&A

- JM raised the size of the wet lease boundary and whether there would be an impact on recreation vessels in the harbour. GG would make available more detailed modelling with images superimposed to provide a clearer perspective of the plans for the wet lease area.
- LK asked if there would be noise at the site. GG responded that blasting would be required, but the latest technology would be used to reduce noise impacts.

- LK asked how the removal of any potentially contaminated silt would be managed. GG responded that Thales would be investigating what was in the silt before any plans to move it were made.
- LK also asked what kind of jobs would be created at the site. GG responded that it was mostly technical jobs that were currently required. From 2020, more trade jobs would open up in fields such as electrical and mechanical.
- GG invited the CLG to have a look at the site and LE noted that it would be good to look into a group visit for the end-of-year CLG meeting.
- RA asked GG why Thales had chosen Newcastle over other Australian ports. GG said there was a familiarity with the site through the Minehunter project (which continues) and Newcastle's proximity to Thales' Garden Island base in Sydney also made it attractive.
- LK asked what kind of power would be required for the site. GG responded that the Fitzroy Street site would use existing sub-stations. Plans for the new site, including the technology that would be required, were still being finalised.
- JT asked when the floating dock would be operational. GG discussed the significant amount of planning that was required, including confirming the size, approval pathways and factoring in a 2-3 year lead time for construction.
- RB asked GG if there were sufficient utilities to the new site. GG responded that there were currently no services and Thales would need to engage with Ausgrid and other local service providers.
- RB asked if there would be an impact on pollution in the harbour. GG responded that the environmental planning work was ongoing and Thales was mindful of the residents living in close proximity to the operations.

4. Other Business

- LK noted the upcoming Throsby Business Chamber AGM and requested CLG members participate in the Chamber's activities.
- CM welcomed CLG members to Throsby Business Chamber events and discussed the interesting mix of businesses. A [link](#) to the Throsby Basin Business Chamber website would be provided to CLG members.

Next meeting

Monday 16 October 2017

Travelodge, Newcastle

5.30pm – 7pm

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