

MINUTES

Port of Newcastle Community Liaison Group

Date: Monday 18 January 2016

Location: Travelodge, Newcastle

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

Attendees:

Member	Representing
Peter Kibble	Port Waratah Coal Services , Manager Organisational Effectiveness
Jill Gaynor	City of Newcastle , Manager of Strategic Planning Services
Geoff Crowe	Port of Newcastle , Chief Executive Officer
Wayne Diemar	HunterNet , Project Director
Nicole Guyder	Office of the State Member for Newcastle , Electoral Officer (Alternate for Tim Crakanthorp)
John McLeod	Newcastle Rowing Club , Carrington Community Council
Robert Aitchison	Business / Tourism , Northern Highland Travel
Bruce Cooper	Port Authority of NSW , Acting Chief Operating Officer - Newcastle
Richard Anicich	Hunter Business Chamber , Immediate Past President
Julie Kearney	Stockton resident. Newcastle Surf Life Saving Club
Dr Richard Finlay-Jones	CLEANaS , Co-Founder. EcoEnviro , Director. Dixon Park Surf Life Saving Club , Member. Newcastle Stand Up Paddle Club , Co-Founder, Surf Rider's Assoc.
John Hayes	Correct Planning & Consultation for Mayfield Group (Alternate for Claire Charles)
Lyn Kilby	Parks and Playgrounds Group , Throsby Villages Alliance (Alternate for Susan Bradley)
Sarah Kiely	Port of Newcastle , Communication Officer. Minute Taker.

Apologies:

Member	Representing
Peter Francis	Port of Newcastle , Executive Manager Trade and Business Development
Claire Charles	Correct Planning & Consultation for Mayfield Group , Newcastle Trades Hall Council
John Thacker	Carrington resident. Carrington Community Centre Management Committee

Absent:

Member	Representing
Richard Howard	Clark Shipping Australia , Director
Sonia McKay	Roads and Maritime Services , Principal Manager, Boating Operations Branch
Aaron Harpham	Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club , Chief Executive Officer
Robert Coombs	Australian Maritime Officers (AMOU)

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Lauren Eyles welcomed the attendees and recirculated Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting dates for 2016.
- A revised CLG Terms of Reference was also distributed. The only update to the Terms of Reference was the amendment to Lauren's title and the date. Lauren asked members if they had any feedback on the terms of reference. No feedback was provided.

2. General Business

Actions arising from the last meeting

- New CLG members 2016:
 - The majority of existing CLG members have elected to continue their involvement in the group for another term.
 - Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group (NCIG) and Stolthaven have been invited to join the CLG. Lauren will update the group when a response is received.
- Survey
 - A number of survey forms were still to be received. CLG members were reminded to return their forms so that results could be finalised and reported back to the group.
- Minute Taker
 - Lauren advised that CLG meeting minute taking had been moved in-house. Lauren welcomed PON minute taker, Sarah Kiely, to the meeting.

Port Authority of NSW update – Bruce Cooper, Acting Chief Operating Officer - Newcastle

- Bruce mentioned that Ron Sorensen had recently left PANSW and acknowledged his contribution to the CLG. Bruce will be acting in the role of Chief Operating Officer until it is filled.
 - CLG members also wished to thank Ron for his contribution.
- PANSW continues its safety focus. There were no injuries or incidents to report.
- Recent storms had created flooding conditions in the Hunter River, with some vessel restrictions required.
- PANSW is supporting PON to bring in new and diversified trade to the Port.
- Question – had there been a drop off in trade and coal trade?
 - Bruce noted that PON was responsible for reporting trade statistics.
 - Geoff Crowe responded that the Port handled 163.9 million tonnes of trade in 2015. This was a 0.3% decrease in port trade, compared with 2014. A decrease in coal exports was recorded, attributable to a reduction in exports to China. Positive growth was recorded in the export of coal to other destinations.
 - The weather event in April 2015 was also mentioned as a factor impacting last year's trade results.
- Question: how was the condition of the water in the harbour following the flood?
 - Bruce explained that the EPA had issued a notification that a suspected 'black water' event had occurred due to the inundating of local rivers and creeks with flood waters. It was identified in the Hunter River at Raymond Terrace and would likely flow downstream into the harbour. (The following media release from the NSW EPA provides further information:
<https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/epamedia/EPAMedia16011402.htm>)
 - Bruce also noted that the harbour water was brown in colour due to the fresh water from upstream flood areas.
- Question: has the Hunter River flood caused an impact on depths?
 - Bruce advised that shipping tonnage and loading had not been impacted.

Port of Newcastle update – Geoff Crowe, CEO

- Stage 1 of the Sovechles development, a Shell/Coles petrol station and food outlet on Cormorant Road, Kooragang Island, opened in December 2015. Stage 2 (a car wash) has been approved by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. Geoff noted that the service station was a much needed service on the island for workers at Kooragang. It was also a good outcome for Stockton residents.
- Geoff advised that a proposal for a permanent multipurpose and cruise terminal has been shortlisted for NSW Government funding via the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund (HIIF). Port of Newcastle and PANSW made a joint application. If the application is successful, it would position Newcastle as a home port destination and would be constructed at the Channel Berth. The focus is now on stage two of the application process. Geoff noted that many other high quality local projects were shortlisted.
- The economic impact of home porting cruise ships was discussed, including local providoring, and synergies with the growth of Newcastle Airport.
- Question - would there be improved access to Carrington? Geoff noted that the roadway and car park improvements would be looked at as part of the proposed development.
- CLG member, Richard Finlay-Jones, congratulated the Port and mentioned that he would like to see solar panels included in the project scope.
- Geoff discussed the impact of the Hunter River floods in January, which have generated in fresh conditions in the river. The result has been some restrictions on vessel movements and increased siltation. PON has put extra resources into dredging and survey.
- Svitzer towage services were unavailable on 12, 15 and 19 January due to a strike by the Australian Institute of Maritime and Power Engineers (AIMPE). Geoff noted that without tugs, ship movements cannot occur. PON's vessel schedulers are working proactively to address the impacts of the strike on shipping movements. Geoff acknowledged the disruption to trade and looked forward to seeing a resolution.
- Geoff advised that the 2015-16 cruise season was going well and mentioned the *Queen Elizabeth* would be arriving on Monday 22 February. The *Celebrity Solstice* will return on Saturday 19 March.
- The *Azamara Quest* visit on 13 January featured fireworks that were provided by the cruise shipping line for a passenger function held at Fort Scratchley and organised through local company, Big Bang Events.
- Geoff confirmed that the 2015 trade statistics had been published. The Port handled 163.9 million tonnes of trade last year. This was a 0.3% decrease in port trade, compared with 2014. Coal exports, comprised 158.1 million tonnes (96.5% of trade). Despite the reduction in exports to China, positive growth in exports to other countries was recorded. Non coal trade (imports and exports) comprised 5.8 million tonnes in 2015, an increase of 9% from 2014. The growth recorded in fuels and fertiliser was discussed. Geoff noted that Park Fuels and Stolthaven were part of the success story of fuel in 2015.
- Question: Could Park Fuels expand? PON to clarify.
- Question: what are the coal export destinations? Geoff noted export destinations for coal included Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Malaysia. There had been a small increase to India.
- Question: Had the increased freshwater caused restrictions in the Port? Bruce Cooper advised that the density and flow of water had been affected by the combination of

saltwater and fresh water in the Port. This provided challenges for manoeuvring vessels into berths as currents were difficult to predict. The currents are measured by a meter and through the pilot's own observation and experience. PANSW is working closely with PON to move vessels around safely.

- Question: will there be more opportunity for grain coming into the Port following the long grain train arrival at NAT last year?
 - Geoff noted that it depended on the season but the intention was to increase grain trade. The grain train had showcased that the Port can bring that kind of cargo in and shows what the Port can handle. There are also cost efficiencies for farmers.
 - Lauren mentioned the grain train could be seen entering the Port from Tippler's Bridge in Carrington. It was also mentioned that the Tippler's Bridge area was a good area for viewing port operations.
 - The shift in the movement of grain, from bulk shipments to containerisation was discussed. Farmers now have more choice about getting their product to market.

ACTION: PON to provide a response at the next meeting re: Park Fuels question.

3. **Presentation – Port of Newcastle Community Partnerships Program**

Lauren Eyles and Sarah Kiely provided an update on projects sponsored in 2015 and guidance for community groups wishing to apply in 2016.

- Projects are selected on merit, in accordance with the sponsorship guidelines available at <http://www.portofnewcastle.com.au/Community/Community-and-Industry-Partnership-Program/>.
- The graphs enclosed provide a summary of 2015 projects by type of project and geographical area.
- CLG members were reminded of a NSW Government funding avenue of \$1 million per annum, the Newcastle Port Community Contribution Fund. CLG members were encouraged to visit the fund's webpage (www.hunterinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au) for more information or contact Bob Hawes from the Hunter Development Corporation, and to speak to landowners around the Port such as the City of Newcastle and Roads and Maritime Services if they have ideas for improvements to community infrastructure or amenity neighbouring the port.

ACTION: PON to distribute presentation to CLG members with the minutes (Presentation attached).

COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

Terms of Reference

The Port of Newcastle Community Liaison Group will provide a forum which:

- Allows the community to develop a greater understanding of the Port of Newcastle.
- Enables two-way communication between the community, business, industry, government and Port of Newcastle on matters relating to the operation of the port that are within Port of Newcastle's remit.
- Enables Port of Newcastle to inform the community of matters relating to the development and operation of the port.
- Allows members of the community to ask questions or provide feedback to Port of Newcastle.
- Enables Port of Newcastle to consult with the community on other matters as required, which may involve input from other agencies.

It is intended that the group's membership provides a balanced representation of the community, business and industry sectors. Port of Newcastle staff will also participate, along with other government representatives, as required.

Expectations

Port of Newcastle will:

- Keep members of the group informed.
- Listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations.
- Provide feedback on how community input influences decision making.
- Provide written information to assist community members to engage with and update their local community.

Members of the group will:

- Attend bi-monthly meetings for a rolling two-year term.
- Be available to meet with Port of Newcastle at other times on occasion.
- Have a demonstrated interest in the Port of Newcastle.
- Represent the interests of their local community (maintain a broader view than individual interests) and provide input on local issues.
- Declare potential conflicts of interest.
- Engage with their local community, business sector or industry sector and update community members on information provided by Port of Newcastle.
- Work as a team and be open to different views.

Alternate Attendees

If a member of the group is unable to attend all meetings, their approved alternative member (as confirmed in the Expressions of Interest process) can attend.

Operating Agreements

- Meetings will be held bi-monthly in the Newcastle area, from 5.30pm to 7pm.
- Meetings will be chaired by the Executive Manager Communication, Port of Newcastle.

January 2016

www.portofnewcastle.com.au