

MINUTES

Port of Newcastle Community Liaison Group

Date: Monday 19th February 2018

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 Lifestyle of Wickham Group
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.
Greg Gocher (GG)	Thales , Project Manager Maritime / Ship Repair
Nick Moretti (NM)	Koppers Carbon Materials and Chemicals , Operations Manager
Julie Kearney (JK)	Stockton resident. Newcastle Surf Life Saving Club
Jill Gaynor (JG)	City of Newcastle , Manager of Strategic Planning Services
Trudie Larnach (TL)	Port Waratah Coal Services, Environment and Community Manager
Sonia McKay (SM)	Roads and Maritime Services , Principal Manager, 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
Dallas Fletcher (DF)	Honeysuckle Community Group
Clare Monkley (CM)	Throsby Basin Business Chamber , President
Richard Howard (RH)	Clark Shipping Australia , Director
Wayne Diemar (WD)	HunterNet , Project Director
Paul O'Rourke (PO)	Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club . Chief Executive Officer
David Brown (DB)	Port of Newcastle , Business Development Officer
Andrew Wood (AW)	Port of Newcastle , Project Manager
Sarah Kiely (SK)	Port of Newcastle , Communication Officer. Minute Taker .

Apologies:

Member	Representing
Robert Aitchison (RAI)	Business / Tourism, All Australian Journeys
Nicole Guyder (NG)	Office of the State Member for Newcastle , Electoral Officer (Alternate for Tim Crakanthorp)
Tim Lees (TL)	Honeysuckle Community Group
Emma Fensom (EF)	Port Authority of NSW , Chief Operating Officer – Newcastle and Yamba
Susan Bradley (SB)	Parks & Playgrounds Movement. Throsby Villages Alliance
Richard Anicich (RAN)	Hunter Business Chamber , Immediate Past President

Absent:

Member	Representing
Michael Frost (MF)	Stolthaven , General Manager

Nathan Juchau (NJ)	Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group, Health, Safety & Environment Manager
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1. Welcome and Introductions

- LE welcomed the attendees and new members Nick Moretti (Koppers) and Greg Gocher (Thales).
- LE also welcomed the PON attendees, Andrew Wood and David Brown.
- Apologies were also mentioned.

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

- GC discussed the trade result for 2017, noting the Port handled 167 million tonnes of trade valued at \$24 billion overall. GC advised that the result was down on the previous year however non coal trade was up off the back of fuel and wheat. PON also recorded the best non coal trade result since 1998, highlighting PON’s diversification strategy. Coal started the year strong but slowed considerably by the final quarter.
- The [Draft NSW Freight and Ports Plan](#) was discussed. GC advised that PON would make a submission that highlighted the Port’s connectivity and capacity. PON’s submission would also highlight the opportunity to build a container terminal on the Mayfield site, along with ro-ro capability, fuel imports and tourism. Submissions can be made online and are due by 25 March 2018.
- GC advised that submissions for the [Draft Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan](#) were due by 28 February and PON was making a submission. It was noted that the Draft Plan included an error about the Carrington Precinct and that PON had sought a correction.
- GC mentioned that PON’s Economic Impact Report would be published shortly.
- PON’s Port Master Plan was also discussed. GC noted the Plan was being developed by PON and set a longer term vision of the Port. It was due to be completed in May 2018.
- GC noted projects around the port that would gain momentum in 2018 including: the Engine House Project was noted, with activity commencing later this year and rolling into 2019; the K2 Project, which would see the replacement of ship unloaders at one of the Port’s busiest common user berths; and continued development at Thales and Stolthaven throughout the year.
- GC noted PON’s new Chair, Roy Green, had commenced in late 2017.
- Cruise ship visits were discussed. GC mentioned that it was great to see *MS Regatta* in the Port on her first visit. *Norwegian Jewel* would also be making a maiden voyage to the Port. *Queen Elizabeth* and *Celebrity Solstice* would be back in the Port on 1 March and 31 March respectively. GC noted that there were 12 cruise ships expected in 2018 and 13 booked for 2019. PON was keen to grow the tourism aspect of cruising into Newcastle.
- GC mentioned the continued delivery wind turbines into the Port, noting that 140 turbines had been received in total for the White Rock and Sapphire wind farm projects. More turbines were expected after May 2018.
- GC mentioned that PON was a sponsor of the Light Up Newcastle Lantern Festival to be held along the Newcastle foreshore, with the event supporting the Mission to Seafarers. GC also advised that Port of Newcastle was sponsoring the Newcastle Fringe Festival (21-28 March) and Newcastle Writers Festival (6-8 April). The next round of Community Partnerships Program funding will open in late March 2018.

Q&A

- LK asked GC where solar panels were being imported from and GC responded they were manufactured in China. RFJ noted that solar panels are containerised.
- RH mentioned the coastal shipping reform legislation and efforts to reduce red tape and asked if PON was involved. GC noted that Ports Australia was advocating for the reform and promotion of the 'Blue Highway'.
- RB asked if there was an update on the Inland Rail and the connection to Newcastle. GC responded that the Port would be connected via the ARTC's Hunter Valley network. PON's submissions to government transport plans highlight that the Port of Newcastle will be the first NSW port to be connected to the Inland Rail.
- LK asked if PON was meeting with regional councils regarding transport plans and Inland Rail. GC noted that he had recently visited Narrabri and PON was keen to engage further.
- RH asked if the opportunity for PON was in containerised bulk and GC responded that it was also about getting more bulk in general on rail – along with containerised bulk. PON benefited from an uncongested rail network and the ability to handle 1.3km trains. RH asked if imported containerised goods primarily stayed in the Sydney Basin area and GC responded that containers were being transported to distribution centres in Sydney and then trucked across NSW.
- RFJ asked if the clean tech industry would be included in PON Master Plan and GC responded that it would be factored in. RFJ discussed lithium for electric vehicles as a potential new market, along with the manufacture of electric vehicles. The opportunity to develop a clean tech hub in Newcastle was also discussed, along with the growth of the hydrogen market.

3. Presentation – Newcastle Cruise Terminal Update

Andrew Wood, Project Manager, provided an overview of the Newcastle Cruise Terminal project, including the design and functionality of the terminal.

Q&A

- GG asked about the capacity of the car park and if it would remain single level. AW noted the car park included 200 car spaces and the drop off / pick of passengers would be promoted rather than long term parking.
- JM asked if a shuttle bus service would be used to transport passengers. AW responded that a shuttle service was a feasible option. GC noted that a ferry service was potentially another option in the longer term.
- RH asked if a ferry could stop at the Channel Berth. AW responded that it may be possible, but the technicalities would need to be worked out with Transport for NSW.
- RB asked for an explanation of the coach movements. AW discussed how the coaches would access the terminal for transit visits.
- RB asked how many vessels were expected to use the Newcastle Cruise Terminal when it was completed. AW responded that PON's target was 25 per year. DB noted that building the Cruise Terminal would provide the enabling infrastructure, and that PON was in regular contact with the cruise lines to promote Newcastle and the Hunter region as a destination. The economic value of cruise shipping was discussed.
- RB asked whether the Cruise Terminal would be used for other events. AW responded that the terminal had been designed to function primarily as a cruise terminal but could host other events on a case-by-case basis. The design did not include a designated kitchen, but the terminal had ample space to enable mobile catering to be brought in.
- JT congratulated PON on what had been achieved to date and asked if gangways would be included in the design. AW responded that gangways could be looked at in the future if there was demand.
- JM asked if passengers would be able to walk from the ship to Carrington, and could pedestrians access the terminal and potentially Dyke Point. AW responded, the answer being no, owing to

safety concerns. Shuttle buses will be provided similar to the current operation. GC noted that a ferry service was potentially another option in the longer term.

- JK asked whether the cruise terminal would generate an income and if the cruise lines pay to use the terminal. It was noted that cruise is a competitive market and that pricing would need to offset the operating and maintenance costs of the facility while remaining comparable with the market.
- RB mentioned that it was a very competitive cruise market and PON's main competitors were the Port of Eden and Port Kembla. He commented that cruise passengers were taken to other areas outside Newcastle, such as Maitland and the Hunter Valley during visits. DF responded that passengers should receive the Hunter Valley experience, as well as a Newcastle experience during their visits. Discussion continued regarding the tourism experiences for passengers, benchmarking Newcastle against other ports and the advantage of the shore excursions offered from Newcastle.
- RH asked how access from the cruise terminal into Carrington would be managed. AW responded that traffic management plans were still in progress and it depended on the rate of growth. It was noted that national port security requirements apply to the port.
- RFJ noted the energy load of the terminal building and asked if solar panels and waste removal had been factored in. DB responded that waste from cruise ships was unloaded at homeports and collected and handled by specialised contractors. RFJ noted we could do more with the waste and utilise it for other purposes. RFJ suggested that the new Cruise Terminal building should consider incorporating solar power on its rooftop as an energy saving mechanism.

4. Other Business

- LE mentioned there was an interesting vessel visiting PWCS recently. TL discussed the wind propelled vessel that visited the Carrington terminal, noting it was the first wind propelled vessel to visit the Port of Newcastle. More information was available on PWCS's [website](#).

Next meeting

Monday 16th April

Travelodge

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