

# MINUTES

## Port of Newcastle Community Liaison Group

**Date:** Monday 19 June 2017

**Location:** Travelodge, Newcastle

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

### Attendees:

Member	Representing
Geoff Crowe (GC)	<b>Port of Newcastle</b> , Chief Executive Officer
Nicole Guyder (NG)	<b>Office of the State Member for Newcastle</b> , Electoral Officer (Alternate for Tim Crakanthorp)
Emma Fensom (EF)	<b>Port Authority of NSW</b> , Senior Manager Port Services
John Thacker (JT)	<b>Carrington Community Centre Management Committee</b> , Chairperson. <b>University of the Third Age</b> , President.
Claire Monkley (CM)	<b>Throsby Basin Business Chamber</b>
Sarah Kiely (SK)	<b>Port of Newcastle</b> , Communication Officer. <b>Minute Taker.</b>
Trudie Larnach (TL)	<b>Port Waratah Coal Services</b> , <b>Environment and Community Manager</b>
John McLeod (JM)	<b>Newcastle Rowing Club</b> , <b>Carrington Community Council</b>
Dr Richard Finlay-Jones (RFJ)	<b>CLEANaS</b> , Co-Founder. <b>EcoEnviro</b> , Director. <b>Dixon Park Surf Life Saving Club</b> , Member. <b>Newcastle Stand Up Paddle Club</b> , Co-Founder, <b>Surf Rider's Assoc.</b>
Nathan Juchau (NJ)	<b>Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group</b> , Health, Safety & Environment Manager
Julie Kearney (JK)	<b>Stockton resident. Newcastle Surf Life Saving Club</b>
Rick Banyard (RB)	<b>Correct Planning &amp; Consultation for Mayfield Group</b>

### Apologies:

Member	Representing
Richard Howard (RH)	<b>Clark Shipping Australia</b> , Director
Robert Aitchison (RAI)	<b>Business / Tourism, Northern Highland Travel</b>
Jill Gaynor (JG)	<b>City of Newcastle</b> , Manager of Strategic Planning Services
Richard Anicich (RAN)	<b>Hunter Business Chamber</b> , Immediate Past President
Sonia McKay (SM)	<b>Roads and Maritime Services</b> , Principal Manager, Boating Operations Branch
Michael Frost	<b>Stolthaven</b> , General Manager
Tim Lees	<b>Honeysuckle Community Group</b>
Wayne Diemar (WD)	<b>HunterNet</b> , Project Director

### Absent:

Member	Representing
Susan Bradley	<b>Parks &amp; Playgrounds Movement. Throsby Villages Alliance</b>
Rita Dixon	<b>Mayfield Business Improvement Association</b>

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

- LE welcomed the attendees and guest speaker, Nathan Juchau (HSEC Manager, NCIG).
- LE also welcomed Trudie Larnach (Port Waratah Coal Services) and Rick Banyard (Correct Planning and Consultation for Mayfield Group) to the meeting.
- LE noted RB would be representing the Correct Planning and Consultation for Mayfield Group and thanked previous representatives, Claire Charles and John Hayes, for their contribution to the CLG.

## 2. General Business

### Port Authority of NSW Update – Emma Fensom (EF), Chief Operating Officer, Newcastle

- EF advised the CLG that the Port Authority of NSW was trialling new technology in place of the traditional foghorn system.

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

- GC provided a recap on the recent Austrade / Hunternet visit to Vietnam, which was in follow up to a previous visit in 2016. GC discussed the progress towards developing coal and renewable energy power stations in Vietnam and noted that there was strong demand for all energy sources.
- GC advised that PON remained Lost Time Injury (LTI) free and that there had been a recent focus on the behaviour of port contractors and promoting simple safety actions, such as ‘eyes on the path’. GC also noted that PON had launched a new contractor management system.
- GC mentioned the recent NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) [report](#) into summer air quality, noting that Upper Hunter and Newcastle air quality was ‘generally good and better than the previous four spring seasons’.
- GC discussed a recent tree planting activity PON participated in alongside NCIG, PWCS, Orica and Impact Fertilisers. GC congratulated NCIG for planting the most trees over the 2-hour period. 2,243 trees were planted in total.
- GC discussed the strong performance of coal and non coal commodities in the Port in the first half of 2017, noting that coal exports were in front on 2016. There had been strong growth in non coal trade, including more than 1 million tonnes of wheat that had been exported since January 2017. Fertiliser and fuel imports were also up.
- PON has started rolling out targeted trade materials promoting the unique capabilities of the Port. A [video](#) focussing on our project cargo trade and wind turbine imports has been released on [YouTube](#) and can be viewed on the PON website. PON has also been more active on [LinkedIn](#) and sharing regular updates about trade and the happenings around the Port. (\*\* PON’s video ‘Project Cargo Solutions’ was played for the CLG following GC’s update).
- GC noted the installation of new mooring bollards at the Channel Berth was now complete. The new mooring bollards will enable larger, heavier cruise ships carrying up to 3,900 passengers to dock at Newcastle. Royal Caribbean’s voyager class vessel *Explorer of the Seas* will visit Newcastle for the first time in 2019, calling twice in February. The luxury cruise ship carries 3,900 passengers and is the largest cruise ship by passenger capacity and tonnage to visit the Port.
- GC advised the group that planning on the Cruise Terminal was continuing. GHD Woodhead has been engaged as the lead architect and the concept drawing was close to being finalised.
- GC mentioned that Stolthaven has concluded the piling works and construction of the new berth at Mayfield 7 is now well advanced, reaching over 75% completion.
- GC discussed the Carrington Engine House Project, including the recent tender for the restoration work and plaza area. The Project Team has been engaging closely with the NSW Heritage Council and an announcement regarding the listing of the Engine House on the State Heritage Register by

the Minister for Heritage is expected imminently. GC noted that temporary fencing had recently been put in place to prevent unauthorised vehicles from entering the foreground area, although it is still accessible to pedestrians. When the works are complete, the fencing will be replaced with bollards.

- Works to reinforce the concrete wharfs at Dyke 1 and 2 are continuing and due for completion by the end of 2017.
- PON would be conducting an economic impact study to quantify the Port's contribution to the regional, state and national economies.
- GC noted that PON's Community Partnerships Program continues to expand its reach with 50 applications received in the latest round. PON had awarded \$66,000 to 16 local community groups.
- PON's community newsletter, [The Channel](#), and its [Mayfield Concept Plan Approval](#) quarterly email would be distributed in the next month or so.

#### Q&A

- GC and Dr Richard Finlay-Jones (RFJ) discussed the success of the recent wind turbine imports and storage at Mayfield. GC noted that there were more wind farm developments happening in the New England area of NSW.
- Rick Banyard asked about the potential impact of Inland Rail for PON. GC responded that Inland Rail represented an opportunity for the port to continue servicing its natural catchment area in western NSW. It wasn't necessarily a risk as the rail line would still service the ports and logistics centres in between. GC noted the port's berth-side rail, its capability to handle 1.3km grain trains and its land and channel capacity.

### 3. Presentation – An overview of Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group (NCIG)

- Nathan Juchau (NJ), NCIG HSEC Manager, provided an overview of NCIG's operations, environmental initiatives and community engagement work.
- In addition, NJ noted that NCIG partnered with PON and PWCS on initiatives such as the Soul Café freezer sponsorship and Conservation Volunteers tree planting challenge. NCIG also hosts annual open days for community members interested in learning more about its operations.

#### Q&A

- RFJ asked about the split between coking and thermal coal handled by NCIG. NJ responded that the ration was approximately 85/15. GC added that the Hunter Valley produced a very specialised soft coking coal.
- RFJ asked if there would be any implications for NCIG and PON following the Adani mine approval. NJ responded that Hunter Valley coal exported out of PON was high-end, low ash and to the specifications of new high-tech power plants.

### 4. Other Business

- RFJ praised the Newcastle City Council's Smart City Project and suggested that it may be of interest to PON.
- RFJ suggested that PON look at a long term diversification strategy for the Port heading toward 2030 and looking at specific opportunities especially in clean tech industries.
- RFJ suggested that there may be an opportunity for the Port and other local companies to investigate the feasibility of a hydrogen production facility.
- RFJ also advised the CLG that local Stand Up Paddle board rider, Hannah Finlay-Jones, would be representing Australia and her region at the upcoming international SUP championships.

**Next meeting**

Monday 14 August June 2017

Travelodge, Newcastle

5.30pm – 7pm

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