

## MINUTES

### PORT OF NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

**Date:** Monday 17 February 2020, 5.30PM

**Location:** Port of Newcastle Level 4, 251 Wharf Road Newcastle

**Chair:** Jackie Spiteri – Port of Newcastle

**Secretary:** Angie Francisco – Port of Newcastle

#### Attendees

| Community representatives  | Port of Newcastle representatives                                 |
|--|---|
| Jacqui Warren - HunterNet  | Craig Carmody – Chief Executive Officer                           |
| Rick Banyard - Correct Planning and Consultation for Mayfield Group      | Tanya McDonald – Executive Manager Corporate Affairs and Strategy |
| Christopher Northam – Office of Tim Crakanthorp MP, Member for Newcastle | Marie Omark – Executive Manager Corporate Services                |
| Clare Monkley - Throsby Basin Business Chamber                           | Glen Hayward – Executive Manager Marine and Operations            |
| Dallas Fletcher - Honeysuckle Community Group                            | Jackie Spiteri – Environment, Sustainability and Planning Manager |
| Paul O'Rourke - Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club                            | Sam Collyer – Senior Manager Corporate Communications             |
| Nick Moretti - Koppers   | Angie Francisco – Communications and Community Relations Manager  |
| John Hayes – GLOW  |   |
| Amy De Lore – Hunter Business Chamber                                    |   |
| John Thacker – Carrington Community Centre Management Committee          |   |
| Trudie Larnach – Port Waratah Coal Services                              |   |
| John McLeod – Newcastle Rowing Club                                      |   |
| Richard Finlay-Jones – CLEANaS   |   |
| Ashlee Abbott – City of Newcastle  |   |
| Ryan Duckmanton – Stolthaven   |   |
| Lyn Kilby – Greater Lifestyle of Wickham Group                           |   |
| Graham Harde – Carrington Community Council                              |   |
| Meg Purser – Newcastle GasDock   |   |
| Paul Hearfield – Transport for NSW                                       |   |

#### General Business

##### Welcome and introductions

- Jackie Spiteri (JS) welcomed attendees to the first Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting of the year
- JS began the meeting by acknowledging the Awabakal people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting was held, paying respect to Elders past and present
- Port of Newcastle (PON) representatives were introduced
- Apologies were received from:

Robert Aitchison (All Australian Journeys); Rebecca Connor (PlanB Town Planning and Development Consultancy); Greg Gocher (Thales); Nathan Juchau (NCIG); Dallas Fletcher (Honeysuckle Community Group); Katelijn Hullegie (Tighes Hill Action Group); Richard Howard (Clark Shipping)

### Review of action items

| Item | Action  | Responsibility                | Date recorded | Timing | Status  |
|------|---|-------------------------------|---------------|--------|---|
| 1    | PON will provide the CLG with a detailed presentation of the Strategic Development Plan in 2020 | Jackie Spiteri / Simon Byrnes | 2019-11-25    |        | Tentatively booked in for 18 May 2020.                                  |
| 2    | PON will provide the CLG with a presentation on its sustainability initiatives in 2020          | Jackie Spiteri                | 2019-11-25    |        | Completed: Delivered by Jackie Spiteri at the 17 February 2020 meeting. |

### Port of Newcastle update

#### Craig Carmody (CC) – Chief Executive Officer

- CC highlighted that 2020 would be a significant year for the Port of Newcastle. He provided an overview of what PON would focus on this year:
- **Newcastle Multi-purpose Deepwater Terminal - 2020** is a critical year that will determine the future of the terminal, because it is currently before the Federal Court. PON is confident it is gaining the political traction it needs for the project to progress. This project will play a major part in the Port's growth and long-term sustainability.
- **2019 trade results** – In 2019, 171 million tonnes of trade went through the Port. This includes the export of 165 million tonnes of coal, an increase of 4.2% from the previous year. All trade helps underpin efforts to diversify the port's role and strengthen the Hunter and NSW economies.

In 2019, the Port again demonstrated its role as a critical trade gateway for Australia's uptake of wind energy technology. PON was the port of choice for importing wind turbines for Crudine Ridge and Collector wind farms. This trend is expected to continue over the coming year.

- **Carrington Hydraulic Engine House** – Tanya McDonald (TM) reported that PON is working to align multiple stakeholder availabilities for an opening event of the refurbished façade and public courtyard. The NSW Minister for Planning, Industry and Environment Rob Stokes has indicated interest in the event.
- **EPIK Newcastle GasDock** – CC reported that a new energy policy framework has been adopted to increase gas supply in NSW. This is a positive development, giving stakeholders confidence in the EPIK project, which will open up new trade opportunities that contribute to meeting the growing demand for gas supply in NSW while supporting the economic development of the region. Technical and planning work by EPIK and the Newcastle GasDock Company will continue this year, with plans for terminal operations to commence in 2022.

- **Newcastle Bulk Terminal** –The supplier of the new ship unloader is completing final tests and checks before the crane is shipped from Vietnam to Newcastle. It will require some pre-commissioning work before it comes into operation during 2020.
- **Sustainability initiatives** – CC praised the work conducted by Jackie Spiteri (JS) and staff from across PON over 12 months to develop a strategy and implement a program of work that will ensure the Port is sustainable and continues to make a positive contribution to the region. Last year PON became the first port in Australia or New Zealand to join the global EcoPorts network, which benchmarks the Port’s environmental and sustainability performance against other ports around the world. In early 2020, PON was certified by EcoPorts following a series of assessments by Lloyd’s Register to measure the port against global best practice management. It was noted that JS would provide a detailed presentation about sustainability initiatives during the meeting.
- **Precinct plans** – In 2019, the Board adopted a 20-year Strategic Development Plan that considers the future development of the port. As an extension of this plan, PON is developing Precinct Plans for Walsh Point, Mayfield, Kooragang and Carrington, including the creation of business cases such as for PON’s Denison Street Property.

**Q:** Graham Hardes asked: What will be built on the Denison Street site?

**A:** CC confirmed that something will be constructed on the site, but PON is exploring a number of opportunities, and needs to identify an appropriate tenant and use before any works are planned.

## Sustainability initiatives

### Jackie Spiteri (JS) – Environment, Planning and Sustainability Manager

- JS provided a detailed overview of the Port’s cultural history of embedding safety, environmental performance and sustainability across the business. Jackie highlighted that Port of Newcastle is the first port in Australia or New Zealand to join the global EcoPorts network, which benchmarks its environmental and sustainability performance against 120 other sustainability-conscious ports around the world.
- PON is embedding sustainability across the interconnected ecosystems of the port including communities, environments and port operations.
- To this end, PON’s strategic approach involves four key themes:
  - Our People, focussing on: leadership and accountability; safety and wellbeing; equality, diversity and inclusion; development; accountability
  - Our Planet, focussing on: climate change and emission reduction; future development and climate change resilience; resource management and efficiency; biodiversity; water quality; biosecurity
  - Our Prosperity, focussing on: social and economic impacts; supply chain improvement; asset lifecycle management; local sourcing; our customers
  - Our Partnerships, focussing on: education and training; communities; community support and sponsorships.

**Q:** John Hayes asked: What special biosecurity initiatives have been implemented for the many vessels that come to Newcastle from areas affected by the outbreak of Coronavirus?

**A:** Glen Hayward (GH) said vessels are required to be held offshore for 14 days, however travel time from China takes up to 16 days. There are government checks onboard the ships and PON has implemented measures to minimise interactions between landside staff and vessel crew.

**Q:** Rick Banyard asked: Do crews board ships between China and Australia?

**A:** GH said that crew typically only changes at a port and not between ports. It would be very unusual for any crew changes to be made in transit between ports, including between China and Australia. He reiterated that typical transit between Chinese ports and Newcastle was more than the 14-day incubation period that applies, which meant any signs of illness would have presented well before a ship arrives in Newcastle. PON continues to take advice, along with all other ports, from the Commonwealth government agencies in charge of border security and biosecurity.

## Community Sponsorship Program

### Angie Francisco (AF) – Communications and Community Relations Manager

- AF announced PON will launch a new Community Sponsorship Program on Thursday 20 February.
- Eligible groups and organisations can apply for up to \$6,000 worth of sponsorship funds or in-kind support where appropriate.
- The new program has been aligned with the Port's sustainability commitments. It seeks to support community initiatives that provide local social, economic and environment benefits.
- Lyn Kilby (LK) noted that many grant and sponsorship programs utilise complicated forms and application processes, which is often out of balance with the amount of funding on offer. LK also noted that many of the same groups successfully apply for grants and sponsorships through multiple programs.
- TM confirmed that PON is aware of these issues and has sought to balance the need for transparent governance with a relatively easy application process given the types and scale of likely applicants
- Rick Banyard noted that many programs require community groups to be an incorporate body, which makes it difficult to secure funds.

**Q:** Graham Hardes asked: Does PON have a representative on the Newcastle Port Community Contribution Fund advisory panel?

**A:** TM confirmed that PON has not had a representative on the panel since 2018. TM also advised that PON would not apply for support through the Community Contribution Fund.

## Community presentation

### Richard Finlay-Jones (RFJ) – CLEANaS

- RFJ gave a detailed climate update.
- The recent Black Summer in Eastern states has emphasised the immediate impacts of climate change in Australia
- Using 2018 data from a CSIRO report, RFJ covered the changing trends in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, sea levels, ocean temperatures and heat events.
- RFJ stated that renewable energy investment, combined with battery storage represents our greatest opportunity for replacement of fossil fuel energy generation.
- RFJ concluded that mega-scale offshore wind energy development could create a new industry, drive down electricity prices and revitalise manufacturing industries within the Port of Newcastle.
- LK raised the challenge of securing investment for such developments.

## Other business

- JS noted the possibility of holding an extra CLG meeting before May for a special presentation on the Newcastle Multi-purpose Deepwater Terminal (MDT). AF will provide more details of this within the next month.
- CC introduced Ross Cadell, PON Special Projects Director. Ross will work with the NSW Government on the Port's diversification projects, including the MDT. Ross briefly spoke about his history growing up in Newcastle and his passion for helping advance projects that will help the local economy to thrive into the future and ensure a successful diversification of the Port as a key gateway for international trade
- LK asked that name tags used for the CLG meetings also identify which group each member represents. LK also asked to consider the definition of the name of the group.

## Meeting close

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 18 May 2020 at Port of Newcastle's head office on Wharf Road.