

MINUTES

PORT OF NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

Date: Monday 18 May 2020, 5.30PM

Location: Video conference, via Zoom

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
Clare Monkley - Throsby Basin Business Chamber	Tanya McDonald – Executive Manager Corporate Affairs and Strategy
Nick Moretti - Koppers	Glenn Thornton – Executive Manager Projects
John Thacker – Carrington Community Centre Management Committee	Jackie Spiteri – Environment, Sustainability and Planning Manager
John McLeod – Newcastle Rowing Club	Sam Collyer – Senior Manager Corporate Communications
Ryan Duckmanton – Stolthaven	Ross Cadell – Special Projects Director
Graham Harde – Carrington Community Council	Angie Francisco – Communications and Community Relations Manager
Paul Hearfield – Transport for NSW	

General Business

Welcome and introductions

- Jackie Spiteri (JS) welcomed attendees
- JS began the meeting by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting was held, paying respect to Elders past, present and future
- Port of Newcastle (PON) representatives were introduced
- JS gave an overview of the Zoom meeting protocols
- 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); Emma Fensom (Port Authority of NSW), Ashlee Abbott (City of Newcastle), Amy DeLore (Hunter Business Chamber), Rick Banyard (Correct Planning and Consultation for Mayfield), Lyn Kilby (Greater Lifestyles of Wickham), John Thacker (Carrington Community Centre Management Committee), Trudie Larnach (Port Waratah Coal Services), Christopher Northam (Office of Tim Crakanthorp MP), Nathan Juchau (NCIG), Paul O'Rourke (Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club), John Hayes (Climate Action Newcastle)

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		Completed by Jackie Spiteri at the 18 May meeting.

Port of Newcastle update

Craig Carmody (CC) – Chief Executive Officer

- CC acknowledged the unusual need to meet via Zoom due to the COVID-19 restrictions.
- **COVID-19** – The Port’s priorities in response to the COVID-19 situation have been the safety of staff, port users and the community, and the need to keep the supply chain operational.
 - Demand for coal has not abated
 - Key operational staff have been able to continue working on site, with appropriate safety measures in place
 - The Port’s recent digitisation and renewal of IT systems have enabled staff mobility, allowing people to work remotely
 - The Port introduced special COVID leave provisions, so staff did not have to expend their existing provisions to care for children, family or other needs in relation to COVID-19
 - PON has been supporting external suppliers and businesses by ensuring continued and faster payments to them during this challenging economic downturn
 - PON continues to work with all agencies involved in the movement of vessels, crew and cargo, including vessel operators, Australian Border Force, Department of Agriculture and Port Authority of NSW
- **First quarter (Q1) trade results** – In Q1 2020, 39.7 MT of coal was exported from Port of Newcastle, a 1.6% increase from Q1 in 2019. Diversified trade volumes were down by 14% compared to the same Q1 in 2019. The drought had a major impact on this, but recent rain has resulted in a rebound to fertiliser volumes. COVID-19 has had a small impact on Diversified Trade – temporary supply chain disruption for some bulk imports (cement), some trans-Tasman services (General Cargo) cancelled, however PON’s exposure has been minimal. An exciting highlight for the start of Q2 was the first RoRo vessel with commercial import and export cargos since 2013, with another RoRo vessel expected in July.
- **New PON appointments** – Even during the economic downturn, PON has been focused on maintaining strong service to existing customers while developing new trades in parallel. In the past couple of months PON has recruited for seven roles. Next month PON will welcome a new Executive Manager for Business Development. Paul Brown just finished as Senior Sales Director for General Electric’s Renewable Energy. He was also previously General Manager of Growth and BD at freight rail operator Aurizon. PON has also appointed Glenn Thornton, who had earlier been seconded from WSP to assist PON in setting up the PMEO and the project management processes. Glenn is now joining PON permanently in a new role as the leader of the Projects team. He was most recently WSP’s NSW Director and Project Director Advisory for Australia. Glenn has first-hand experience in major infrastructure projects and a deep understanding of all commercial aspects of large-scale projects Port of Newcastle is now pursuing.

- **Newcastle Multi-purpose Deepwater Terminal (MDT)** – The obstacle to progressing the MDT Project is currently in mediation. The matter is due to go to court in October 2020. PON remains optimistic about reaching a solution on the obstacles to progressing this critical infrastructure project – the case is a compelling one, particularly at such an important time for the local, state and national economies.
- **Stockton Beach** – The State Government has created a taskforce to address the coastal erosion at Stockton Beach. Port of Newcastle is part of that taskforce. This is an important issue for the Stockton community; we look forward to seeing a solution put forward that is a long-term, fact-based response.
- **EPIK Newcastle GasDock** – CC reported that last month, PON and EPIK signed a Project Agreement setting out how the two organisations will work together over the next stages of the projects for the Newcastle GasDock to be successful. EPIK has progressed its commercial arrangements.
- **Sustainability initiatives** – CC invite JS to give an overview of the many sustainability initiatives being implemented across the Port. JS highlighted: the upcoming release of the 2019 Sustainability Report; benchmarking PON’s carbon footprint to understand where the business can make sustainable reductions; the review of electricity contracts with an aim to move to a supplier of 100% renewable energy; and continued engagement with stakeholders to build strong relations and partner on sustainability initiatives.
- **Glenn Thornton** – CC circled back to Glenn Thornton (GT) to introduce himself. GT expressed that it was an exciting time to be working at the Port and looks forward to being a part of its growth and diversification.

Q: John McLeod (JM) asked about CC’s thoughts on the cruise industry.

A: CC invited Tanya McDonald (TM) to respond. TM reported that there were existing bookings in place for next season, but entry of cruise ships into Australian (and Newcastle) waters is subject to the Government’s decision on the management of international borders and COVID-19. TM suggested that domestic tourism will become more attractive while restrictions are in place.

Strategic Development Plan

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

- JS provided a detailed overview of the Port’s Strategic Development Plan – Aqua Terra.
- The Strategic Development Plan is a blueprint for the future development of the Port, with a focus on precincts
- The Plan helps PON to understand opportunities and constraints as the business considers how to develop each precinct
- JS said the Plan identified the highest and best use options for each precinct. These options will be refined further through more detailed Precinct Plans.

Comment: JM congratulated PON on the approach and the value in looking at the opportunities for each precinct in detail.

CC added that the purpose is to get a longer view of the Port, in line with the 98-year Lease Agreement. The intention for now and into the future is to consolidate similar businesses, services and suppliers for cost efficiencies, improved accessibility, increase service level, and long-term sustainability benefits.

Q: Clare Monkley (CM) asked: What types of businesses will be part of each precinct?

A: CC said that future businesses don’t necessarily need to be associated with the ship. Instead, it could be businesses that support the supply chain such as transport, freight forwarders, rail, because clustering supply chain partners shortens the supply chain.

Q: CM asked: What is PON's opinion of Australia's manufacturing and production sectors in light of the COVID-9 situation?

A: CC said there was a need to shorten supply chains and a way to do that was through regional, more dispersed distribution centres. Ross Cadell added that the Government had indicated a need for Australian manufacturing to transform, with talks about seed funding particularly for green steel and renewable energy.

Community Sponsorship Program

Angie Francisco (AF) – Communications and Community Relations Manager

- AF informed the group that 2020 sponsorship recipients had been informed of the outcome of their application.
- PON will announce the recipients once the sponsorships have been confirmed through a formal Sponsorship Agreement.
- The new program aligns with the Port's sustainability commitments. It seeks to support community initiatives that provide local social, economic and environment benefits.

Other business

- Graham Hardes (GH) asked PON:
 - How is the Newcastle Port Community Contribution Fund (NPCC) calculated; what is the amount based on?
 - How much has PON contributed each year?
 - Would PON support a request for the percentage of the fund being aside each year for community and not-for-profit groups?
- TM informed the group that PON had contributed \$1 million per year since the business privatised in 2014. This is in addition to corporate and community sponsorships and donations that PON contributes each year. The contribution amount was established as part of the lease arrangement with the State Government. PON has previously raised ideas on how the funds could be allocated and discussed the weighting of the different types of projects, however it is a matter for the NSW Government as stewards of the fund to decide the best framework and approach, recognising strong demand from across the city for this type of financial support.

Action: PON will review the NPCC clause and report back to GH about whether the contribution amount is to change over time or whether it is fixed each year.

Meeting close

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 17 August 2020. Logistics of this meeting will be provided closer to the date.