

## MINUTES

### PORT OF NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

**Date:** Monday 23 November 2020, 5.30PM

**Location:** Stag & Hunter, Mayfield

**Chair:** Sarah Kiely, Port of Newcastle Communications and Community Relations Manager

#### Attendees

Community representatives	Port of Newcastle representatives
Chris Northam – Office of Tim Crakanthorp MP	Craig Carmody – Chief Executive Officer
Amy de Lore – Hunter Business Chamber	Glen Hayward – Executive Manager Marine and Operations
John Hayes - Climate Action Newcastle	Tanya McDonald – Executive Manager Corporate Affairs and Strategy
Karen Marples - Port Waratah Coal Services	Jackie Spiteri – Environment, Sustainability and Planning Manager
Richard Howard – Clark Shipping	Sam Collyer – Senior Manager Corporate Communications
Paul O'Rourke - Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club, Newcastle Tourism Industry Group	Ross Cadell – Special Projects Director
Clare Monkley - Throsby Basin Business Chamber	Sarah Kiely – Communications and Community Relations Manager
Nick Moretti - Koppers Management Committee	Angie Francisco – Communications and Community Relations Manager
Ryan Duckmanton – Stolthaven	
Graham Harde – Carrington Community Council	
John McLeod – Newcastle Rowing Club	

#### General Business

##### Welcome and introductions

- Sarah Kiely (SK) welcomed attendees
- SK began the meeting by acknowledging the Awakabal people as the Traditional Owners of the lands on which the meeting was held, paying respect to Elders past, present and future
- Port of Newcastle (PON) representatives were introduced and the format of the meeting was outlined
- Apologies were received from: Greg Gocher (Thales); Dallas Fletcher (Honeysuckle Community Group); Emma Fensom (Port Authority of NSW), Lyn Kilby (Greater Lifestyles of Wickham); Dave Williams (Stockton community resident); Robert Aitchison (All Australian Journeys); Rick Banyard (Correct Planning and Consultation for Mayfield); Richard Finlay-Jones (Clean Energy Association); Jacqui Warren (HunterNet); John Thacker (Carrington Community Centre); Sonia Mackay (Transport for NSW)

##### Review of action items

Nil to review

#### Port of Newcastle update

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

- CC discussed PON's remote work arrangements for office-based staff in response to COVID-19 and the decision to move to 'agile' working arrangement.
- PON's new Agile Workplace would mean staff have the option to work remotely and from the office – with the focus on getting the work done, not where it is done.
- PON's Wharf Road office has re-opened with a number of COVID controls and protocols in place to keep people safe. A hot desking arrangement is now in operation within the office, with staff booking their desk on the days that they choose to come into the office.
- CC noted the port continues to be a valuable contributor to the region and plays an important role in supporting domestic and international trade. In August PON engaged respected Australian economists Houston Kemp to measure this. The report highlights the benefit of port activity as equating to about 5,700 (direct and in-direct) jobs in the Lower Hunter and a \$1.5 billion economic contribution nationally.
- CC discussed PON's recent Indigenous Engagement initiatives, including the new PON Welcome Sign at Dyke Point, Indigenous STEM Scholarship and a program of mandatory cultural awareness training for PON staff.
- PON was successful at the recent Hunter Business Awards, winning the 'Excellence in Sustainability' category and receiving Highly Commended in the 'Contribution to the Region' category. CC also mentioned that PON's Executive Manager Projects, Glenn Thornton, had been elected to the Board of the Hunter Business Chamber.
- In relation to trade, CC mentioned that PON's trade had been resilient despite COVID-19.
- CC advised that he did not have an update on the MDT project, however an outcome on the ongoing Federal Court case was expected during 2021.
- JS gave a short update on recent sustainability initiatives at PON, including renewable energy contracts, electric vehicle transition, aligning recent works with UN Sustainable Development Goals and PON's latest GRESB result, which had improved significantly since 2019.
- CC mentioned that JS had recently commenced in the newly created role of Senior Manager ESG and congratulated her on leading PON's sustainability portfolio.
- SK mentioned the next round of Community Sponsorships would open in February 2021 and CLG members would receive information on how to apply so they can forward it to their networks. SK recently represented PON at the Newcastle Rowing Regatta and an event to launch the Croatian Wickham Sports Club's new solar panels, which it had funded in partnership with Climate Action Newcastle.
- CC thanked the CLG members for their flexibility and support this year. PON was launching its 5 Year Strategic Plan to staff and it would be shared with the CLG in 2021.
- A slide featuring a PON aerial map and the new precinct names and branding was shown to the group. SK discussed how the new names and branding was part of a customer-focussed project to enhance how the Port markets its capability.
- CC also praised PON's virtual port tour video launched earlier in the year and the benefit it had provided in a year where PON had been unable to host face-to-face port tours.
- In closing the PON update, SK played a video of 2020 highlights for the group.

**Questions**

**Q:** Richard Howard (RH) asked for an update on the EPIK project

**A:** Tanya McDonald (TM) responded that EPIK was working through the CSSI process for the Newcastle GasDock and had recently announced expanded bunkering as part of the project. It was progressing raising funds and continued to make progress on the development. Ross Cadell (RC) mentioned PON was recognised as being part of the renewable energy hub within the Hunter.

**Q:** RH also asked about the processes for handling and storing Ammonium Nitrate (AN) at the port.

**A:** Glen Hayward (GN) responded that PON was comfortable with the comprehensive audits that had recently been completed – which was the second audit within the last five years. GH mentioned that the new Harbour Master had come to Newcastle from Bunbury where a lot of AN was handled and had an interest in the handling processes at PON. Every shipment through Newcastle is audited and subject to multiple controls and checks by the stevedores, cargo owners, transport operator, the port and the vessel master before moving it. CC mentioned he had recently undertaken a tour of the Orica facility. John Hayes (JH) raised that he was a representative on the Orica Community Group. He noted that Crawfords at Sandgate stored a significant amount of AN and received less focus than Orica.

### **Other business**

- SK advised that the 2021 dates would be forwarded to the group. Quarterly meetings (February, May, August and November) on the third Monday of each month would be maintained in 2021.

### **Meeting close**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2021. Date and venue to be confirmed.