

**Port of Newcastle Community Liaison Group
Meeting Minutes – Monday 23 November 2015**



Attendance	Representation
Chairperson	
Lauren Eyles	Port of Newcastle , Executive Manager Communication
Guest speakers	
Kristen Keegan	Hunter Business Chamber , CEO
Kerry Lack	Environment Protection Authority
Keith Wilks	Port of Newcastle , Executive Manager Operations & Infrastructure
CLG	Community Liaison Group
Peter Kibble	Port Waratah Coal Services
Peter Francis	Port of Newcastle , Executive Manager Trade and Business Development
John McLeod	Newcastle Rowing Club , Carrington Community Council
John Thacker	Carrington Resident. Carrington Community Centre Management Committee
Richard Howard	Clark Shipping Australia
Richard Anicich	Hunter Business Chamber , Immediate Past President
Alec Roberts	CLEANaS.
Claire Charles	Correct Planning & Consultation for Mayfield Group , Newcastle Trades Hall Council
Geoff Crowe	Port of Newcastle , Chief Executive Officer
Robert Aitchison	Business / Tourism; Northern Highland Travel
Wayne Diemar	HunterNet
Julie Kearney	Stockton resident. Newcastle Surf Life Saving Club
Bruce Cooper	Port Authority of NSW , Senior Manager Port Services
Nicole Guyder	Office of the State Member for Newcastle , Electoral Officer
Lyn Kilby	Parks and Playgrounds Group, Throsby Villages Alliance
Sarah Kiely	Port of Newcastle , Communications Officer (Minute taker for this meeting)
Apologies	Representation
Tim Crakanthorp	State Member for Newcastle
Jill Gaynor	City of Newcastle , Manager of Strategic Planning Services
Dr Richard Finlay-Jones	CLEANaS , Co-Founder. EcoEnviro , Director. Dixon Park Surf Life Saving Club , Member. Newcastle Stand Up Paddle Club , Co-Founder, Surf Rider's Assoc.
Ron Sorensen	Port Authority of NSW , Chief Operating Officer
Sarah Purser	Independent Minute Taker
Sonia McKay	Roads and Maritime Services , Principal Manager, Boating Operations Branch
Susan Bradley	Parks and Playgrounds Group, Throsby Villages Alliance
Absent	
Aaron Harpham	Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club , CEO
Robert Coombs	Australian Maritime Officers Union (AMOU)

1 Informal port tour

Peter Francis and Keith Wilks provided commentary during a port tour for attendees.

2 General Business

Actions arising from the last meeting

- **PON to consider how many additional places are available on the CLG, who will be invited to join, and provide an update to existing CLG members.**
 - A number of survey forms were still to be returned. Lauren would like to confirm who is interested in staying on as a member. There are one or two places to be filled if all current members continue their involvement with the CLG. Lauren is considering inviting industry representatives relevant to the port.
- **PON to provide dates for 2016 CLG meetings.**
 - A hand out with proposed 2016 dates was distributed to attendees.
- A copy of Peter Freyberg's presentation to the Hunter Business Chamber (October 2015) was also provided to attendees as an industry perspective on the future of the coal industry.

Port of Newcastle Update – Peter Francis

- Safety
 - Peter mentioned PON's marking of 500 days Loss Time Injury Free (LTI). PON will now aim to reach 1,000 days LTI free. Peter reiterated that this achievement was possible because of the focus on safety across the Port.
- Snakes
 - Snake sightings have been reported by some of the Port's neighbours. Peter said this was something to keep in mind as the weather warmed up. If you see a snake, do not approach. Call a licensed snake handler.
- Developments
 - The Planning Assessment Commission has approved the PWCS Terminal 4 development. PWCS is now required to obtain approval from the Commonwealth Government.
 - The Department of Planning & Environment has approved Stolthaven's application for a modification to its development consent to allow an increase in Stolthaven's annual throughput from 1,010 million litres to 1,300 million litres. Peter noted that Stolthaven will be able to use its existing tanks to accommodate the increase.
- Trade and Shipping
 - The 2015-16 cruise season commenced today with the visit of the *Pacific Dawn*. The *Pacific Jewel* will make her maiden voyage to Newcastle tomorrow, arriving in the Port at around 7am. This season the Port will welcome 11 cruise ships and nearly 18,000 passengers. Highlights of the season include five maiden visits. There will be a three gun salute from Fort Scratchley on departure (15-20 minutes after the ship leaves the berth).
 - The flood recovery effort is now complete. In just four and a half months, 500,000 cubic metres of sediment has been moved. By comparison, over a 12 month period, the dredge moves a typical volume of 840,000 cubic metres.
 - The channel is now back to its pre-flood condition of 15.2 metres depth along its entire length.
 - The New Zealand Navy's *HMNZS Endeavour* (an oiler) and *HMNZS Te Kaha* (a frigate) visited Port of Newcastle from 16 – 19 October. Both ships berthed at West Basin. Peter mentioned that this was an R&R visit.
- General
 - PON was a finalist in the Lloyds List Australia Awards for the Port or Terminal of the Year Award and the Seafarers Welfare Award, announced last week.
 - The Port of Townsville was awarded Port or Terminal of the Year, and NCIG received a highly commended award. Peter noted that the Port of Townsville was similar to Newcastle as it is a similar sized town, and also a bulk port. He mentioned the Port of Townsville has a 'mix and match' approach to

diversification and that it was a good port to take lessons from. Allways Shipping was awarded the Australian Maritime Safety Authority Seafarers' Welfare Award. PWCS was also nominated.

- Community Partnerships Program: Over 50 applications were received from a broad cross section of community groups and organisations. Applicants will be notified in early December.

Port Authority of New South Wales Update – Bruce Cooper

- Bruce reiterated the focus on safety across the Port.
- PANSW is working with Port of Newcastle from an operational perspective to facilitate future trade development.

3. Other Business

- No Other Business was discussed.

4. Presentation – The Hunter Region's economy'

- Kristen Keegan, Hunter Business Chamber CEO, provided an overview of the region's economy and recent activities of the Hunter Business Chamber:
 - The Hunter Business Chamber is the largest regional business chamber in Australia and represents very large to small businesses. The Chamber has been operating continuously since 1886. Kristen also mentioned that the Hunter Business Chamber was a small organisation in terms of its number of employees, with 10 staff members involved.
 - Kristen acknowledged that the current climate was tough for business.
 - The Hunter Business Chamber is focussing on youth unemployment as 20.1% of youth are currently unemployed in the Hunter region.
 - It was noted that businesses were 'soft' at hiring employees from this age bracket, however it was recognised that the calibre of applicants was also not ideal. Kristen mentioned that businesses could be assisting and supporting young people in how they put themselves forward in the workplace.
 - Kristen mentioned that the Chamber had noted that the number of business closures following the mining slow down had peaked.
 - Another focus of the Hunter Business Chamber was the NSW State Government's \$1.3 billion infrastructure spending in the Hunter over the past few years. There was now a whole range of sources of infrastructure funding available, including Resources for Regions and the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Board, of which Kristen was a board member.
 - An Australian Infrastructure Audit was currently underway, involving a stocktake across Australia cities. Kristen discussed the ranking of Newcastle and the Hunter and the opportunities for receiving more Federal funding. Newcastle was viewed as a secondary city that supports capital cities, like Sydney. The Hunter Business Chamber would be using international examples of secondary city funding (e.g. Boston in the United States) to argue for more investment in Newcastle.
 - Kristen mentioned representatives from the Hunter Business Chamber and HunterNet had recently visited Canberra to discuss the potential of the defence industry in the Hunter. The Hunter region is also leading the charge on energy research. The work of the CSIRO was noted as an example of this.
 - In concluding, Kristen said the disconnect with young people needed to be addressed and that we need to be skilling them to ensure we bring them along on the journey.

4. Presentation – Cruise Ship Regulation

- Kerry Lack, Environment Protection Authority, provided an overview of cruise ship regulation that applies to Sydney Harbour and mentioned a possible extension to other regional New South Wales ports.
 - Power point presentation attached.
 - In addition, Kerry noted that cruise ship emissions in Newcastle were very low as a portion of total shipping emissions. The EPA is interested to hear from community and business which will inform its investigations around emissions from cruise ships and broader shipping.
 - CLG members are invited to take part in an EPA survey.

Action:

- A copy of Kerry's presentation and a link to the community survey to be sent to attendees and CLG members (complete 24/11/2015).

5. Discussion

- Port of Newcastle was asked the following questions by CLG members:
 - *Can a cruise ship terminal be built at Throsby Wharf?* No. Keith noted that the berthing area was too small for the cruise ships now visiting Port of Newcastle. Hunter Development Corporation (HDC) have advised that Throsby is no longer accepting vessels and is no longer a wharf.
 - *What will happen to Throsby Wharf?* It was noted that Throsby is managed by the HDC and no longer a wharf.
 - *Would PON build viewing platforms?* PON already has a number of publicly accessible areas, such as the breakwaters that give a view of the Port. Another unique viewing area (near the Dyke 3 berth) is accessible via Tippler Bridge at Carrington. The area is used by fisherman and has tables and a grassed area for visitors. It was noted that there is also a lot of waterfront public space (managed by Council), such as the Newcastle and Stockton foreshore areas.
- Lauren acknowledged that the tonight's meeting and port tour marks the end of the Community Liaison Group's first two-year term.
 - Lauren thanked CLG members for their involvement, wishing everyone a safe and merry Christmas. The diligence and commitment of CLG members was also noted by Geoff Crowe.

6. Next Meeting*:

Monday 18 January 2016, 5.30pm to 7pm

Venue: Travelodge, Newcastle.

*Attendance is by Port of Newcastle's invitation.

REGULATION OF CRUISE SHIP EMISSIONS IN NSW PORTS

In October this year the NSW Government moved to reduce emissions from cruise ships coming into Sydney Harbour. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is now seeking views from regional communities where cruise ships visit, or are planned to visit, including Newcastle, Port Kembla and Eden to decide if the regulation of cruise ships in regional areas is warranted.

About air pollution from ships

Some air pollutants from ships include sulfur dioxide and fine particles.

Sulfur dioxide is a colourless gas and respiratory irritant. Ships emit high levels of sulfur dioxide and fine particles by burning diesel fuel with an average sulfur content of 2.7%. Diesel used in on-road vehicles contains 0.001% sulfur.

Fine particles less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter, known as PM_{2.5}, are small enough to be inhaled into the lungs, pass through tissue and enter the blood. They are associated with a range of respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, especially in the young, the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions.

Reducing sulfur in fuel is the key means of reducing both sulfur dioxide and fine particle pollution.

Regulating emissions from cruise ships in Sydney Harbour

The *Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Amendment (Cruise Ships) Regulation 2015* was introduced in September 2015 and took effect on 1 October 2015. The regulation requires passenger cruise ships to use fuel containing no more than 0.1% sulfur while in Sydney Harbour. This fuel sulfur level is consistent with other parts of the world, including North America and Europe where special 'Emission Control Areas' apply. Information about the Regulation can be found at <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/air/cruise-ship.htm>.

The Regulation currently only applies to Sydney Harbour, which has high population densities close to cruise terminals and the greatest exposure impacts from cruise ship emissions. Sydney Harbour accounts for 90% of cruise ship visits to NSW ports. In Sydney Harbour cruise ships produce around 35-40% of total fine particle emissions from all ships.

The initial focus is on passenger cruise ships given their close proximity to densely populated areas, the projected increase in cruise ship visits to NSW ports, and their contribution to overall shipping emissions, particularly while at berth or 'hotelling'.

For general shipping (in Sydney Harbour), 64% of fuel consumption and 90% of sulfur dioxide emissions occur when ships are at berth. Passenger cruise ships have higher energy requirements, fuel use and emissions while at berth than other shipping.

Regulating emissions from cruise ships in other NSW ports

While cruise ships make up a smaller proportion of shipping activity in regional ports, the NSW Government is considering extending the requirements for cruise ships to use low sulfur fuel while visiting other NSW ports from July 1 2016.

Next steps

A series of meetings are being held with communities at regional ports to gather the views and concerns of residents about the extension of the Regulation to all NSW ports.

The NSW Government will also consider options to reduce emissions from other shipping types, and is working with the Commonwealth Government and other jurisdictions on potential measures to address broader shipping emissions.

Further information

Minister for the Environment Media Release, Regulation for low sulfur fuel in cruise ships

<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/resources/MinMedia/EPAMinMedia15090101.pdf>

NSW EPA Ship Emission Study, Emissions from Ships Operating in the Greater Metropolitan Area (PDF 2.9MB)

<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/resources/air/gma-ship-emissions.pdf>

NSW EPA Diesel and Marine Emissions Management Strategy (PDF 301KB)

<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/resources/air/150038Diesel-marine-strategy.pdf>