

MINUTES

Port of Newcastle Community Liaison Group

Date: Monday 10th April 2017

Location: Travelodge, Newcastle

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

Attendees:

Member	Representing
Geoff Crowe (GC)	Port of Newcastle , Chief Executive Officer
Jill Gaynor (JG)	City of Newcastle , Manager of Strategic Planning Services
Nicole Guyder (NG)	Office of the State Member for Newcastle , Electoral Officer (Alternate for Tim Crakanthorp)
Bruce Cooper (BC)	Port Authority of NSW , Senior Manager Port Services
John Thacker (JT)	Carrington resident. Carrington Community Centre Management Committee
Richard Howard (RH)	Clark Shipping Australia , Director
Lyn Kilby (LK)	Parks and Playgrounds Group, Throsby Villages Alliance (Alternate for Susan Bradley)
Robert Aitchison (RAI)	Business / Tourism, Northern Highland Travel
Richard Anicich (RAN)	Hunter Business Chamber , Immediate Past President
Sonia McKay (SM)	Roads and Maritime Services , Principal Manager, Boating Operations Branch
Claire Monkley (CM)	Throsby Basin Business Chamber
Wayne Diemar (WD)	HunterNet , Project Director
Sonia McKay (SM)	Roads and Maritime Services , Principal Manager, Boating Operations Branch
Sarah Kiely (SK)	Port of Newcastle , Communication Officer. Minute Taker.
Scott Bacon (SB)	Port of Newcastle , Asset Manager. Guest speaker.

Apologies:

Member	Representing
Julie Kearney	Stockton resident. Newcastle Surf Life Saving Club
Susan Bradley	Parks & Playgrounds Movement. Throsby Villages Alliance
Michael Frost	Stolthaven , General Manager
Trudie Larnach	Port Waratah Coal Services, Environment and Community Manager
John McLeod	Newcastle Rowing Club, Carrington Community Council
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.
Tim Lees	Honeysuckle Community Group

Absent:

Member	Representing
Nathan Juchau	Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group , Health, Safety & Environment Manager
Claire Charles	Correct Planning & Consultation for Mayfield Group , Newcastle Trades Hall Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

- LE welcomed the attendees and guest speaker, Scott Bacon (Asset Manager, Port of Newcastle).
- LE advised the group that Rita Dixon (Mayfield Business Improvement Group) and Tim Lees (Honeysuckle Community Group) have been invited to join the CLG. Trudie Larnach (Port Waratah Coal Services, Environment and Community Manager) would represent PWCS on the CLG.
- LE noted that Robert Harpham (Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club) and Robert Coombs (Maritime Union of Australia) had left their respective roles.

2. Presentation - Maintaining the Port's assets

Scott Bacon (Asset Manager, Port of Newcastle)

- SB provided an overview of port infrastructure maintained by Port of Newcastle including marine infrastructure, utilities and navigation aids, breakwalls and the Carrington Hydraulic Engine House.
- LK asked about the dredger and the amount of spoil that it moved. SB responded that dredger operated 24/7, 365 days a year. The dredge crew used information from the hydrographic survey team to conduct maintenance dredging. (**Postscript:** On average the dredge moves about 500,000 cubic metres of mud siltation from the shipping channel per annum. The figure varies depending on flood events.)
- WD asked SB about the future use of the Carrington Hydraulic Engine House. SB responded that future uses will need to be consistent with the port lease and planning guidelines. The current priority was the structural integrity of the building. A substantial investment would be required to restore the inside of the building.
- JT asked if there was a difference between the maintenance requirements of the north and south breakwalls. SB responded that there was around a 60:40 ratio, with the southern breakwall getting hit by the southerly ocean swells and the northern breakwall being more protected.
- RH asked about the status of the traffic planning for the Cruise Terminal, e.g. how cars would access the site through the Carrington Gatehouse and internal roads. GC advised that landscaping, roads, car parking and traffic management would be part of the detailed planning process for the Cruise Terminal. PON will invite PON's Cruise Terminal Project Manager to present to the group at a future CLG meeting.
- RH also asked whether there were plans for rectifying the condition of seawalls in the 'Snakepit' area of the Port, near the former Forgacs site. GC responded that PON would provide an update regarding the site at a future meeting.

3. General Business

- LE advised the CLG that applications for the Newcastle Port Community Contribution Fund would open shortly. Hunter Development Corporation (HDC) is planning a community information session after Easter. PON will inform the CLG when advised of the date.

Port Authority of NSW Update – Bruce Cooper, Senior Port Services Manager

- BC advised the group that safety was always a focus and some minor issues such as strains had been recorded. A training program was being rolled out.
- The Port Authority of NSW was working through the recent weather impacts with PON's vessel schedulers.

- BC discussed a recent report on NBN News regarding Nobbys and advised that experts have been looking into the long term health of the cliff face. More signs have been put in place around the base of Nobbys as some rocks had fallen. BC requested that the signs be noted.
- RH asked BC if there were plans to open up the historical gun emplacement located at the base of Nobbys. BC responded that there were no plans. BC noted the activation of the cottages on Nobbys and that Port Authority of NSW was working with Newcastle NOW to ensure there were no impacts on port operations.

Port of Newcastle Update – Geoff Crowe, Chief Executive Officer

- GC advised the group that Peter Francis had commenced a new role at Dantia. Recruitment for a new Executive Manager of Trade and Business Development is underway.
- PON achieved a significant milestone of 1,000 days LTI free in February.
- GC noted that PON's Kooragang 2 berth had been very busy, with strong seasonal demand for fertiliser imports, export meals and aluminium production raw material imports.
- PON is expecting the final shipment of wind turbines for the Goldwind White Rock Wind Farm in April.
- GC discussed the difficult weather conditions experienced in February and March.
- GC discussed a recent project where PON had collaborated with Port Authority of NSW, ARTC, HVCCC, PWCS and NCIG to improve the efficiency of vessels moving in and out of the port.
- The new mooring bollards at the Channel Berth are on track for completion in May.
- GC advised that GHD / Woodhead had been selected as the lead architect for the Cruise Terminal, following a competitive tender process. Further detailed design work was now underway and will take most of the year with construction due to commence in 2018. PON will continue to update the CLG. More information about the Project would be available on [PON's website](#).
- GC advised the CLG that PON had received development consent for the use of the Dyke Point Shed in Carrington as a storage facility for freight and project cargo. The Dyke Point Shed is the large shed with the welcome sign that is visible from the Newcastle Foreshore.
- The trailer suction hopper dredge, TSHD *Brisbane*, will be conducting dredging works for Stolthaven from 16 April 2017 at the Mayfield 7 berth. It will be in the Port for approximately 10 days. RH asked what the operating hours of the *Brisbane* would be and GC advised that he will confirm and let the CLG know.
 - **Postscript:** Project information is available here - <https://www.stolt-nielsen.com/en/our-businesses/stolthaven-terminals/terminal-network/stolthaven-newcastle/stolthaven-newcastle-mayfield-7-bulk-liquids-berth-project/>.
Stolthaven's website notes: *'The project will be operating on the following working hours: 7:00am – 5:00pm Mondays to Saturday. Dredging associated with the Project may be undertaken on a 24 hour basis, 7 days a week.'*
- LK asked whether the Dyke Point shed could be used as an art gallery or community facility. GC responded that PON's obligation was to operate a working harbour and there was potential to use the shed for project cargo.
- LK raised the Throsby Wharf and asked who the owner was, noting it was in a good location and had a beautiful view of the harbour. GC responded that the Hunter Development Corporation was the owner and the seawall was currently being refurbished. GC also acknowledged the revitalisation work being done around the city.
- GC advised the CLG that first Community Partnerships round for 2017 had opened and community groups were welcome to apply for funding.
- GC noted that PON had been awarded \$500,000 from the Newcastle Port Community Contribution Fund towards the restoration of the Carrington Hydraulic Engine House. The funding includes

\$300,000 for the creation of an outdoor plaza area in front of the building and \$200,000 towards the restoration of the building's façade. PON will more than match the grant with the total cost of the project to come in at around \$1.2 million. Detailed planning is currently underway and the restoration works are expected to commence later in 2017, followed by the construction of the community-accessible plaza area in 2018.

- GC mentioned the Marine Kayak Challenge recently held on Ash Island. Port of Newcastle sponsored this pilot event organised by the Kooragang Landcare Group in early March. 300kg of household rubbish (38 bags) and a trailer load of hard rubbish was picked up by the crews of volunteers on kayaks in the Hexham intertidal area of the Hunter River estuary.
- RAI asked what happened to the ships that were in the port during bad weather. GC advised that it was easier to get loaded ships out in bad weather, compared to bringing ships in with no load.
- RAN asked what kind of cruise ship numbers would be expected when the Cruise Terminal was built. GC advised that PON expected the numbers to ramp up over a few years.
- RH asked about other uses for the Cruise Terminal. GC noted that the primary use would be for a cruise terminal. Any multipurpose use would need to be consistent with PON's obligations under the port lease and Border Force requirements. Further planning around the use of the terminal and security arrangements is required and the CLG will be kept updated.
- CM suggested that the discussion around additional uses for the Cruise Terminal could be opened up for input from community and business. CM noted the artefacts held by the Maritime Museum could also be utilised in the building. GC responded that PON would be responsible for fitting out the Cruise Terminal and was open to ideas, particularly around promoting the region and places to visit to cruise ship passengers.

4. General Business

- LK advised the CLG that the World War I honour roll will be displayed in the new Wickham Transport Interchange, including a history of the names that appear.

Next meeting

Monday 19 June 2017

Travelodge, Newcastle

5.30pm – 7pm

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