

**Port of Newcastle Community Liaison Group  
Meeting Minutes – Monday 22 September 2014**



<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Representation</b>
<b>Chairperson</b>	
Lauren Eyles	<b>Port of Newcastle</b> , Executive Manager Communication Services
<b>CLG</b>	<b>Community Liaison Group</b>
Peter Francis	<b>Newcastle Port Corporation</b> , Executive Manager Port Development
John Thacker	<b>Carrington Resident. Carrington Community Centre Management Committee</b>
John McLeod	<b>Newcastle Rowing Club</b>
Julie Kearney	<b>Stockton Resident. Newcastle Surf Life Saving Club</b> , Member
Jill Gaynor	<b>Newcastle Council</b>
Ron Sorensen	<b>Port Authority of NSW</b> , Chief Operating Officer - Newcastle
Todd Robinson	<b>Golder Associates, Associate</b> – Environmental Planner
Jeff Coleman	<b>Port of Newcastle</b> , Chief Executive Officer
Richard Anicich	<b>Hunter Business Chamber</b> , President
Richard Howard	<b>Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club</b> , CEO
Sonia McKay	<b>Roads and Maritime Services</b> , Principle Manager, Boating Operations Branch
Sarah Purser	<b>Independent Minute Taker</b>
<b>Guest Presenters</b>	<b>Representation</b>
Bob Hawes	<b>Hunter Development Corporation</b> , General Manager
<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Representation</b>
Geoff Crowe	<b>Port Waratah Coal Services</b> , General Manager Commercial - Company Secretary
Richard Finlay Jones	<b>CLEANaS</b> , Co-Founder. <b>EcoEnviro</b> , Director. <b>Dixon Park Surf Life Saving Club</b> , Member. <b>Newcastle Stand Up Paddle Club</b> , Co-Founder.
<b>Absent</b>	<b>Representation</b>
Tony Cade	<b>Hunter Net</b>
Robert Coombs	<b>Australian Maritime Officers Union</b> , Industrial Officer
Robert Aitchison	<b>Business / Tourism; Highlander Travel</b>
Susan Bradley	<b>Islington Village Community Group</b> , Member. <b>Parks and Playgrounds Movement</b> , Member. <b>Throsby Villages Alliance</b> , Delegate.
Claire Charles	<b>Correct Planning and Consultation for Mayfield Group</b> , Secretary
<b>Abbreviations</b>	
PON	Port of Newcastle
NPC	Newcastle Port Corporation
PA-NSW	Port Authority of NSW
CLG	Community Liaison Group
HIIF	Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund
NCC	Newcastle Community Contribution Fund

## 1 Welcome and Introductions Lauren Eyles, Chairperson

Lauren welcomed the Community Liaison Group (CLG) members and introduced Bob Hawes, General Manager of Hunter Development Corporation.

## 2 Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund Presentation by Bob Hawes, General Manager, Hunter Development Corporation

Bob explained that his attendance at this meeting was to provide some detail on the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund (HIIF) and to open up a discussion with the CLG re: the Newcastle Community Contribution Fund, and to offer an opportunity for members' feedback.

- Hunter Development Corporation administers the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund (HIIF). The HIIF is an advisory board, providing advice to the NSW Government on how funds may be acquitted.
- The Newcastle Community Contribution Fund (NCCF) was given NSW Government approval a while ago. It will be under the HIIF auspice, but will be a discrete fund. The Newcastle Community Contribution is paid via the port manager, with approximately \$1 million collected per annum. The funds are collected by the NSW Government and will be distributed via the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund on an annual basis.
- The intent of the funds is broadly 'towards the cost of maintaining landside infrastructure and/or community amenity within the port'. It is an opportunity to improve community amenities around the port and to celebrate the port.
- The criteria may also include improvements to parks adjacent to the port, environmental projects within the port or community events. It is likely that the fund would allocate several medium to large grants per annum, rather than smaller grants.
- The HIIF is seeking input from stakeholders including the community, business and government agencies re: the funding criteria and ideas on how the money could be spent.
- Bob explained that there will be consultation with many groups (including the Port of Newcastle Community Liaison Group) and also organisations such as Port of Newcastle, the Port Authority of New South Wales, Newcastle Council and Roads and Maritime Services.
- Bob explained, with the exception of the port lessee, private sector interests would not be eligible to apply and that Government is also interested in Not –For-Profit organisations.
- The money will be held in a ministerial holding corporation until allocated. The process is likely to be run as a funding round (e.g. a call for proposals with a deadline). Timing has not been confirmed.

### Discussion

- **Land owner consent:** If community groups propose projects, they would need to engage with and obtain the consent of the landowner before applying for funding. Government would like to see projects that are feasible, have development approval, and are ready to go.
- **Approvals process:** Terms of reference and details of the approval process are to be confirmed by Government. The Minister for the HIIF is Pru Goward.
- **Funding amounts:** A minimum and maximum funding amount per grant is yet to be determined.
- **Co-funding:** Co-funding could be a possibility, to leverage on projects already identified.

- **Funds for Planning:** The HIIF terms of reference focus on capital expenditure and not preliminary planning or due diligence.
- **What is the geographical boundary?:** The geographical extent is to be confirmed. It was suggested that the Port of Newcastle boundary for planning purposes (as defined in the State Environmental Planning Policy) could be used as a starting point.

## Actions

- **CLG members to discuss the fund with their community, business and industry networks and provide ideas to Bob re: the draft funding criteria by 14 October 2014 via email [bob.hawes@hdc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bob.hawes@hdc.nsw.gov.au).**
- **HDC will provide recommendations to the NSW Government based on the broad consultation that he is undertaking and will update the CLG in due course.**

## 3 General Business

Lauren introduced Dianne Waller, Communication Officer (Maternity Relief). Dianne will be the contact for CLG members while Sarah Kiely is on maternity leave. Dianne can be reached via the Port of Newcastle community email address [community@portofnewcastle.com.au](mailto:community@portofnewcastle.com.au). Lauren also welcomed Jeff Coleman, Port of Newcastle's Chief Executive Officer, to the meeting.

### Correspondence received:

- From the Office of Tim Owen, advising of Tim's resignation.
- From Bob Hawes, requesting an opportunity to engage with the CLG re: the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund. (Actioned).

### Engagement:

- Lauren advised she had spoken to Allan Jackson of the Throsby Basin Business Chamber and Terry McCauley, Coordinator of the Islington Village Community Group, who had expressed an interest in Port of Newcastle joining their meetings. Lauren has identified Port of Newcastle CLG members who are already involved in the Throsby and Islington Village groups (John Thacker and Susan Bradley respectively), who will be a conduit of information and feedback between the groups and the CLG. Lauren invited the groups to contact her directly if they have any questions between meetings.
- It was asked whether Port of Newcastle was considering new membership for the CLG. Lauren said that Port of Newcastle would consider this at the end of the current two year term. It was acknowledged that it would be good to invite the State Member for Newcastle to join the group, when elected.

## 4 Port Authority of New South Wales Update Ron Sorensen, Chief Operating Officer – Newcastle

- Ron advised that his team had been busy forming the Port Authority of New South Wales which is a merger of Sydney, Newcastle and Port Kembla port corporations into one business. Port Authority of NSW commenced operations on 1 July 2014.
- Port Authority of NSW is working on centralising some areas with the aim of improving efficiency in the ports of Sydney Harbour (Glebe Island and White Bay), Botany Bay, Eden, Yamba, Kembla and Newcastle.

## 5 Port of Newcastle Update

### Peter Francis, Executive Manager Port Development

#### Media coverage re: the Terminal 4 (T4) Planning and Assessment Commission Hearing

- Peter advised that there is a misconception that T4 would tie up land that would otherwise be used for non-coal trade. He clarified that the 200 hectares of vacant land available for non-coal trade does not include the T4 site and asked CLG members to please take this detail back to the community and the groups that they represent.
- Both coal and non-coal trade will continue to co-exist. Neither hampers the other's development.
- Coal is currently, and will continue to be, the major trade for the port and surrounding regions. Coal is 97% of the port's total trade throughput and is \$13.6 billion of the port's total trade value (\$15.5 billion).

#### Community event organisers' requests to access the breakwaters

- Port of Newcastle manages the breakwaters and is required to keep them open for public access.
- Occasionally, Port of Newcastle receives requests from community members who would like to conduct filming or a fitness event.
- PON is happy to give these requests consideration, provided that safety and insurance requirements are met. Peter noted that water does break across the breakwaters, and that needs to be taken into account.
- Peter asked that enquires be directed to the Communication Services Team (Lauren or Dianne), who then can liaise with the Property Team regarding a community licence.
- Requests to access the road leading to the breakwaters or Nobbys Headland, are best directed to Bruce Cooper at the Port Authority of NSW.
- The following map was distributed.



#### Port Development Plan

- There will be a presentation at the November CLG meeting.
- The plan will be published on the Port of Newcastle website in December.
- It will inform the NSW Government, government agencies and the community of Port of Newcastle's five year development objectives.

- The plan will be similar in scope to the Draft Strategic Development Plan that Newcastle Port Corporation published in February 2013.
- The Port Development Plan will not include a container terminal. As Jeff mentioned at the previous CLG meeting, Port of Newcastle has no immediate plans to build a container terminal, as Port of Newcastle does not think it is commercially viable.

### **BHP Buildings**

- Plans for the remediation of the Mayfield Intermodal Site are being finalised.
- Three old buildings will be removed to enable the site to be capped and ensure that existing contaminants from the former BHP site are contained. Timing is to be confirmed.
- The former Pattern Store building will be carefully dismantled, and the sandstone blocks will be stored until Port of Newcastle determines an appropriate use.
- Some blocks will be provided to the Newcastle Industrial Heritage Association for a BHP Memorial.

### **Discussion:**

- **Does Port of Newcastle have a new dredge?:** No. The current dredge, the *David Allen*, was purchased from State Government and still has a significant service life of around 15 to 20 years. A new survey vessel, the *JT Gowlland*, has been commissioned and is in operation. The old survey vessel, the *John Shortland*, has been refurbished and is utilised for conducting port tours.
- **Community understanding of PON and PANSW functions:** Lauren asked whether CLG members are receiving many questions. CLG members' feedback was that there is still interest in who owns what, who looks after what and who is in charge of what (in particular, who owns dredging and Nobbys). It was acknowledged that the meeting notes had been helpful in assisting in answering these type of questions.
- **Nobbys Headland:** It was confirmed that Nobbys Headland is managed by the Port Authority of New South Wales. Ron advised that there is renovation work being conducted on Nobbys Headland by Newcastle NOW. It was acknowledged by CLG members that Newcastle NOW has done a great job with the refurbishment of the cottages, with assistance from Jobfind and Corrective Services NSW, and that it has further plans to improve the site including a viewing platform. It was noted that a video of the refurbishment works was available on the Newcastle Now website: <http://www.newcastlenow.org.au/nobbys>
- **Victoria Lifeboat Sculpture:** It was noted that the new lifeboat sculpture (on Nobbys Headland) is excellent and that a launch for this was held late last year. The sculpture is accessible when Nobbys is open.

## **6 Other Business**

### **Update from Richard Howard, Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club**

- The Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club has been working with Roads and Maritime Services and the port regarding the installation of markers within Newcastle Harbour and offshore. He advised that these were approved a few months ago. The first markers are likely to be in place in the next few weeks, subject to the Harbour Master's approval. The following two will go in over the next few months, subject to approval.
- These are used for recreational users, yacht club fleet and may be used by rowers as well. They will be visible off the southern end of the southern arm and are located half way between the pilot station and half way on the southern shore.
- Ron raised that some plastic buoys that are utilised as navigation markers have been replaced and as change outs come through they will all be the new style, which is more favourable for navigation and is more cost effective.

### **Public access**

- John McLeod asked if public access could be gained to Tipplers Bridge and Dyke Point. Peter advised that Port of Newcastle needs to retain access to Tipplers Bridge or another fishing site. When the bridge reaches the end of its life, the fishing wharf may need to be relocated. Peter advised that there is currently no access to Dyke Point due to port safety and security requirements. He advised that there are a lot of working vehicles including trucks, and steel, aluminium and grinding medium in that area, so it is not a safe location for the general public. Peter said that there are no short or medium plans for this situation to change, but acknowledged this is a beautiful spot.

## **7 Port of Newcastle Community and Industry Partnerships Programs Lauren Eyles, Executive Manager Communication Services**

Lauren provided an update on the Community and Industry Partnerships Programs, and advised of funding recipients for 2014.

### **Aims**

The aims of the Community Partnerships Program were to:

- invest in our region's future and contribute to the prosperity of the Hunter Region;
- build relationships, communication and effective partnerships with the local community (particularly communities that neighbour the port);
- make a measurable and ongoing difference to the lives of people within our local community, particularly young people;
- educate and engage the community re: the operation of the port;
- increase Port of Newcastle's profile; and
- deliver community engagement opportunities for Port of Newcastle staff.

### **Criteria**

Successful applicants were required to demonstrate:

- how their project will deliver a measurable benefit to the community;
- their vision, mission and goals for the project;
- that they have strong governance and appropriate policies and procedures in place;
- how the partnership will deliver a return on Port of Newcastle's investment (e.g. introduce Port of Newcastle to relevant audiences and deliver recognition);
- that their project aligns with Port of Newcastle's values; and
- that the project is sustainable beyond Port of Newcastle's investment (e.g. that it will attract ongoing funding).

### **Ineligibility**

Port of Newcastle will not fund:

- salaries;
- projects benefitting individuals only (e.g. request for sponsorships from individuals for overseas travel);
- political organisations or campaigns;
- lobby groups;
- sporting teams;
- projects outside Newcastle and the Hunter Region; and
- projects primarily focussed on capital works.

## **Outcomes**

- 21 applications were received for Round One.
- 11 grants were awarded, totalling \$80,212.
- The average grant was \$7,292.
- Applications were of a high quality and spanned a great range of projects.
- Applications were reviewed by a staff panel, with input from all levels of the organisation. Final recommendations were approved by the Board.

## **Recipients**

### Community Partnerships

- *City Serve (Kingdom Works)*: An initiative mobilising thousands of volunteers through the month of October to clean, repair and paint community facilities.
- *Harry's House (Harry Meyn Foundation)*: Provides support to families that have a child living with cancer or have lost a child to cancer.
- *Sailing Academy (Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club)*: Establishment of a sailing academy to promote the sport of sailing and safe boating to young people.
- *Climate Cam in Schools (Wetland Environmental Education Centre)*: Implementation of sustainability initiatives in local school.
- *School Hall Upgrade (Mayfield West Demonstration School)*: Support for a school hall upgrade, which will include funding the purchase of a sound system.
- *Youth Development Leadership Program (Stockton Surf Life Saving Club)*: Program to support youth members and cadets, assisting them to develop lifesaving skills and foster ongoing club involvement.
- *Seeds to Supper Project (St Columban's Primary School, Mayfield)*: Program to promote gardening and healthy eating for students and their families.
- *Life Saving and Bronze Medallion Training Program (Newcastle Surf Life Saving Club)*: Training manuals, first aid kits, CPR face masks, training defibrillator and a data projector to deliver the lifesaving programs.
- *Surfest Stars of the Future 2015 (Surfest)*: Program identifies and assists young surfers in pursuing a career in professional surfing. Workshops and surfing demonstrations during Surfest 2015.
- *Newcastle Port and Hunter River Estuary Discovery and Restoration Program (Conservation Volunteers Australia)*: Project involving restoration projects and community tours focussing on the Hunter Wetlands National Park (Shortland, Kooragang, Fullerton Cove).

### Industry Partnerships

- *Bus for Seafarer Transport Service (Mission to Seafarers and Stella Maris Centre)*: Support for the purchase of a bus to assist with the transportation of more than 12,500 seafarers visiting the Centre.

## **Next Funding Round**

- Applications open in February 2015.  
CLG members to be advised via email.

## **Next Meeting\*:**

Monday 24 November 2014  
Travelodge Hotel Newcastle  
5.30 to 7.00 p.m.

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