

Attendance	Representation
Chairperson	
Lauren Eyles	Port of Newcastle , Executive Manager Communication Services
CLG	Community Liaison Group
Peter Kibble	Port Waratah Coal Services
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
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.
Claire Charles	Correct Planning & Consultation for Mayfield Group , Newcastle Trades Hall Council
Geoff Crowe	Port of Newcastle , Chief Executive Officer
Ron Sorensen	Port Authority of NSW , Chief Operating Officer
Sarah Purser	Independent Minute Taker
Apologies	Representation
Tim Crakanthorp	State Member for Newcastle
Peter Francis	Port of Newcastle , Executive Manager Port Development
Robert Aitchison	Business / Tourism; Highlander Travel
Julie Kearney	Stockton resident. Newcastle Surf Life Saving Club
Jill Gaynor	City of Newcastle , Manager of Strategic Planning Services
Absent	
Aaron Harpham	Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club , CEO
Wayne Diemar	HunterNet
Sonia McKay	Roads and Maritime Services , Principal Manager, Boating Operations Branch
Robert Coombs	Australian Maritime Officers Union (AMOU)
Susan Bradley	Parks and Playgrounds Group, Throsby Villages Alliance

1 Welcome and Introductions; Lauren Eyles, Chair

Lauren welcomed CLG members, noting that the group is approaching two years into its first term and that open ended feedback would be sought from members at the end of the meeting.

2 General Business

Actions arising from the last meeting

Lauren confirmed that invitations have been put out to a number of guest speakers. She noted that Kristen Keegan, CEO of the Hunter Business Chamber, would provide an overview of the region's economy at the next meeting.

Port Authority of New South Wales Update – Ron Sorensen

- Ron advised that as of 30 September 2015, the Newcastle Harbour Master, Peter Dwyer, will also be the Harbour Master for the Port of Clarence (Yamba).
- He noted that there had been some challenging weather conditions in Newcastle recently.

Port of Newcastle Update – Geoff Crowe

- **Roads upgrade:** PON will spend up to \$3 Million in road resurfacing and reconstruction works on Cormorant and Greenleaf Roads, Kooragang Island. This work is expected to be conducted in October through to December, weather permitting.
- **Update on the April Hunter River Flood:** The channel has now been recovered all the way back to a depth of 15.2 metres along its entire length. This is the result of a huge effort by the dredging and survey teams. PON invested additional resources in dredging and survey to recover the depth as quickly as possible to reduce disruption to customers' operations.
- **The *David Allan*:** The *David Allan* is currently docked at Garden Island in Sydney for routine maintenance (Special Survey IV). It will return to the Port in early October.
- **Landing Craft vessel:** A landing craft vessel designed and constructed by Forgacs was recently loaded onto a heavy lift ship at the Mayfield 4 Berth, bound for Tonga. The 30.4 metre vessel was commissioned by the Australian Defence Material Organisation for the Tongan Defence Services. It is designed to carry cargo such as fuel, oil, fresh water, containers, deck cargo and vehicles. It will be used for the transport of Tongan Defence Services equipment and personnel, amphibious training, disaster relief and emergency towing.

Discussion:

- **Can Newcastle handle containers?:** Yes. Currently Newcastle handles about 10,000 containers per annum. PON is interested in growing all the Port's trades, including containers, and is open to receiving business proposals.
- **Stolthaven DA:** Claire Charles commented that Stolthaven has put in a development application for additional petrol tanks on the Mayfield Site, and they are not just diesel. Geoff advised that he was aware of this. He has done a tour of Stolthaven and noted that it is a state of the art facility. Stolthaven is one of the Port's success stories in terms of organic growth.

3 Other Business

Online articles on coal , renewable energy and divestment trends provided by Richard Finlay-Jones were discussed by the group.

Richard said he feels there is a need to talk about renewable energy, that the world is divesting from fossil fuels and the impacts of climate change need to be addressed. He is concerned that the Port has too many eggs in one basket, would like to see a change in trade proportions and to know what can be done to make Newcastle the most successful, innovative and up to date Port.

A discussion followed. Summary points follow.

- The group discussed whether coal export trade will decline. PANSW and PON both see a strong future for coal, particularly given the high quality of Hunter Valley thermal coal. It was acknowledged that coal is 97% of the Port of Newcastle's trade (by volume) and that PON will continue to grow and diversify the non coal trades, alongside coal. New trade and coal will coexist. It was suggested that CLG members could help convey the Port's capabilities and growth potential.
- The importance of strong transport infrastructure, including road and rail, was acknowledged. Current infrastructure and ideas for potential infrastructure were discussed, including moving more freight from road onto rail. It was acknowledged that good infrastructure connects Central NSW to the Port, and that protecting current and future transport corridors from urban encroachment is important to ports. PON explained that transport infrastructure is not within its control. It was explained that port trade is driven by the catchment area and that PON is working with the Hunter Business Chamber and HunterNet to continue to grow and facilitate trade. PON had taken out an advertisement in *The Australian's* feature about Newcastle to raise awareness about the Port's capacity and capabilities.
- Examples of cities that have made industrial and economic transitions were discussed. The book *Magnet Cities* by Caroline Haynes was recommended. A local shipping agent has received feedback from a vessel master on the cleanliness of the harbour and the terminal, who remarked that Newcastle is one of the most beautiful ports he had visited.

- It was acknowledged that Newcastle Council's visitor information centre is difficult to find, and it was suggested that it be moved to a location with better parking, for example, the Carrington Hydraulic Engine House.
- It was acknowledged that community members want to feel safe. Claire Charles advised that she had attended a meeting outlining the Kooragang Emergency Plan, convened by the NSW Government and emergency services. PANSW and PON advised that they had also provided input into the plan. It was suggested that emergency services be invited to give a presentation on the plan.

ACTION:

- **Lauren to invite emergency services to provide a presentation to the CLG.**

4 Discussion – Community Liaison Group

Lauren acknowledged that the Group is approaching the end of its first two-year term, and invited feedback from CLG members re: what has worked well, suggestions for improvement, and would they like to continue to be involved. It was acknowledged that PON would like to continue the group.

All attendees said the forum was valuable and they would like to continue their involvement.

What has worked well?

- The forum welcomes people's involvement and engagement which is great for Newcastle.
- Interesting discussions about the future and looking for opportunities.
- The group stays focussed and on track, providing the opportunity to achieve things.
- Great cross section of community representation.
- Information raised and discussed when the group gets together can be taken back to community groups. Without this forum there was uncertainty how this type of information would get back.
- Good forum for any industry to have, particularly as the Port is very significant in Newcastle.
- Carrington community members now meet regularly, which provides a forum for conveying Port and CLG information.
- This meeting's discussion on collectively promoting the Port was a useful forum and provided plenty of opportunities.
- Discussions today had been productive, positive, exhilarating and thought provoking - great to have this forum.
- Information shared is informative.
- The Port is an iconic place, symmetric with Newcastle. It is vital for community and industry to work together around the Port.
- Tonight's meeting showed how a good group can work together. With the same people continually attending, the more open the forum becomes.

Suggestions for improvements:

- That the Port be a showcase in new technology, new systems and new thinking.
- More industry involvement with the CLG.
- Speakers to come in around particular core subjects for the town e.g. who is already doing things and some information about the Newcastle's Old Government Domain 1804 group.
- Invite key business operators to talk about current opportunities and future plans to feed into discussions like today.
- Consider representation from the University and CSIRO, and local business chambers (e.g. Throsby Basin Chamber).

Lauren thanked members for the time they had invested to date and said she looks forward to continuing with the group.

ACTION:

- **Lauren to provide dates for 2016 CLG meetings.**
- **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.**

Next Meeting*:

Port tour and dinner for Community Liaison Group Members aboard the Nova Cruises vessel *MV Bay Connections*, with Kristen Keegan, CEO of the Hunter Business Chamber.

Monday 23 November 2015

5.45pm to 8pm

Meet at Lee Wharf, Honeysuckle

*Attendance is by Port of Newcastle's invitation