

Meeting No. 141
Wednesday, 05 August 2020
9.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.

Webex Online Meeting

Minutes

Attendees	
<p>Community members Mark Peterlin Phillip Laird</p> <p>Business Representatives Nigel Harpley - Ixom Lorrie Zammit – Bluescope Steel Brian Kiely – PK Gateway Dene Ladmore – Quattro Ports Brendan Moss- GrainCorp Anita Rojas – Bluescope Steel Paul Bollen – Morgan Cement Sara Star - AAT</p> <p>University of Wollongong Andy Davis</p> <p>NSW Ports representatives Trevor Brown Vida Cheeseman Sarah Downey</p> <p>Port Authority of NSW Sharad Basin</p>	<p>Wollongong City Council Renee Winsor</p> <p>Dept of Agriculture Kiri Calver</p> <p>Chris Haley – Chairperson Natalie Murphy – Minute Taker</p> <p>Apologies Ron Hales Peter Maywald Greg Newman - EPA Evan Wissell - AAT John Macpherson – Pacific National Andy Brownjohn – BOC Gases Luke Pascot - PKCT</p>

Introduction: Lorrie Zammit welcomed Anita Rojas from BlueScope Steel to the meeting to ascertain the topics and style of meeting to attend in Lorrie's absence if required.

1. Feedback: Community Group Report

Trevor Brown: Feedback was sought on the new Community Group Report as an effective means of communication. 3 people responded and provided positive responses.

Mark Peterlin: In the June report it was suggested that coal tar emissions are low impact, which is not a fair description as he is under the impression, they are carcinogenic.

Brian Kiely: Brian responded to Mark's enquiry. EPA has set control conditions in place. Vapours are collected and put through a thermo oxidizer which reduces almost all vapours. There is also odour monitoring during load operations managed by the shipper and BlueScope. It was noted that coal tar loading is down from 60,000 tonnes to 2,000 tonnes this year.

Trevor Brown: The Community Group Report which we produced in lieu of the June meeting was resource intensive and given we have the tools to meet virtually we will be proceeding with this format going forward, in line with NSW Health guidelines, until we can meet in person again.

Mark Peterlin: noted in the Draft Terms of Reference: Engagement Objectives, page 1, dot point 3, Managing impact of Port Operations omitted "community sympathy".

ACTION: Vida Cheeseman/ Sarah Downey to discuss wording amendment with Mark Peterlin

2. Key Initiatives and Actions:

Refer to separate schedule which should be attached to minutes.

- Sustainable Development Guideline on hold. Will push ahead again this FY with June 21 completion date
- Sustainability Plan completed 2019
- Storm water management information was circulated to the group late last year.
- Illegal dumping and litter reduction action is complete
- Allans Creek: looking at alternatives
- Weed and Feral Pest Control: completed this FY
- Sustainable Anchorage practice – Phase 1 is complete
- Educational resources and website - Corporate Affairs attending meeting. Discuss later date.
- Sustainability report for NSW Ports has been completed and implemented. Sustainable Development Guidelines for Port Users will be completed by next June. It will outline guidelines for how Port Users undertake projects.

3. Climate Change

Lorrie Zammit: BlueScope have energy reduction targets in place.

ACTION: Lorrie to circulate to the committee BlueScope's new energy reduction targets

Renee Windsor: Wollongong City Council has released a Draft Climate Change Mitigation Plan 2020-2022. Council is seeking feedback to get some projects up and running to help the community reduce emissions. There are several projects on exhibition at council seeking feedback until 12 August.

4. Road & Rail Infrastructure

4.1 Phillip Laird enquired as to NSW Ports involvement in the Rail Freight and Ports Group within the Australasian Railway Association (ARA).

Trevor Brown: Trevor responded that NSW Ports are ARA members and Jonathan Lafforgue is a member of the Road & Rail Committee.

4.2 Upgrade to South Coast Line:

Trevor Brown noted the focus appears to be passenger centric rather than commercial.

Dene Ladmore: Noted grain containers are using rail every day since June 2019 up until October 2020. Grain volume has increased by 61% from previous year largely due to imports.

Philip Laird: A study was recently completed regarding access from Gwynneville to Mount Ousley. Advice from that study could be provided at the Council meeting 31 August. Philip volunteered to write a 2-page letter outlining concerns from the Committee to Council. Philip will send draft letter to Chris Haley for discussion. It was noted the traffic is growing to over 55,000 vehicles and approx. 5,000 trucks using Mount Ousley.

ACTION: Philip Laird to write letter and send to Chris Haley in first instance. See attached letter to Paul Scully and his reply in Appendix A.

Trevor Brown: noted matter should be directed to State Government rather than Council.

5. PKHEG Website

Corporate Affairs have been working hard building a new NSW Ports website as the older version was outdated and did not provide a good customer experience.

Sarah Downey: Research was conducted with community groups and it was confirmed the website is the key channel of preferred communication. The new website was showcased by Sarah. The community page provides information about our community groups including this one, and this is where the most recent meeting minutes can be accessed going forward. Mark Peterlin and a Council rep provided feedback.

Community feedback suggested alert notification and subscriptions would be useful. The community can receive notifications of what is going on in the Harbour by signing up for email notifications via the [Contact Us page](#). It was noted that the Illawarra Mercury and the Media are ongoing platforms for communication for those who do not access the internet.

All Committee members were impressed with the new look and feel. Sarah noted a link to the website will be sent next week to the Committee members for feedback before going live.

Vida Cheeseman: Required endorsement for the Minutes of PKHEG Meetings to be made available to the public via the new website. Approx. 6 yes responses were recorded with an approval noted.

6. Legislation and Policy

Lorrie Zammit: SAI Global Environment – no legislative comments of any reference to impact the Harbour.

EPA announcements are:

- A Community based new clean- up plan of illegal dumping in bushland;
- Owners of land in South West Sydney are being urged to fence their land due to increase of illegal dumping

- Lithgow city council has entered an enforceable undertaking with EPA to improve its environmental performance after caustic soda discharge.

7. Round Table

Andy Davis: COVID19 lockdowns difficult to do fieldwork.

Allison Broad has been busy working on a paper on Anchorage and Impacts with very positive reviews. Allison's paper once accepted can be released to the Committee.

Currently In negotiations with Dept of Primary Industries to assist fieldwork offshore. Hope to be offshore next month.

Dene Ladmore: Quattro Ports: Crop across NSW and the East Coast looks great this year with the hope to be exporting really soon.

Renee Winsor: Wollongong Council: Key docs currently on exhibition ending 12 August:

- Inaugural Climate Change Mitigation Plan. It is a two-year plan which aims to set the scene for how Council intends to move forward with meeting the emissions reduction targets and supporting the city to meet its targets. It sets out preliminary actions that will provide information and establish strong relationships for continued success. Strong foundations for collaboration are necessary in order to give Council and the city the best chance of achieving the emissions reduction targets.
- Draft revised Environmental Sustainability Strategy on exhibition which aims to ensure we are effective in addressing contemporary environmental sustainability issues for our city.
- These can be found at <https://our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/>

Vida Cheeseman: NSW Ports: Renewable energy projects are coming through the Ports now. Turbine blades for two windfarms arriving over the next 6 months. 1st shipment of new trains arriving, the 1st in the last 49 years. Bringing this to the attention of the Illawarra Mercury and WIN News highlighting what is going on in our Harbour.

Vida has captured some beautiful aerial shots day and night of the Harbour for anyone that is interested.

ACTION: Vida to share the pics via email to the Committee

Trevor Brown: NSW Ports: Access to the Northern Breakwater is still denied. PKCT have security over the Port Kembla Road entrance as part of the terms of their lease. We continue to liaise with PKCT.

Philip: Gas Terminal: AIE are yet to make a financial commitment but are still pursuing the planning phase. Meeting with AIE regularly. There is the potential to invite an AIE representative to a future meeting.

8. General Business

Draft Terms of Reference: Mark Peterlin's earlier comment regarding word amendment. Vida and Mark to discuss word amendment.

Vida Cheeseman: It was noted the CEO of NSW Ports has been invited to attend the next meeting. Confirmation closer to the date.

9. Next Meeting:

DATE: 07 October 2020

VENUE: Webex Online Meeting – meeting details confirmed closer to the date

TIME: 9.00 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.

RSVP: Sarah Downey on Telephone: 9316 1120
or E-mail sarah.downey@nswports.com.au



Paul Scully MP
MEMBER FOR WOLLONGONG



12 August 2020

Mr Chris Haley
Chairperson
Port Kembla Harbour Environment Group
C/- NSW Ports
Level 3, Maritime Centre
91 Foreshore Road
PORT KEMBLA NSW 2505

Dear Mr Haley

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 August 2020 regarding the Mt Ousley Interchange project.

I understand the NSW Government allocated \$3 million in 2018/19 to continue to plan this project. The project has planning approval and the next stage will be to prepare the detailed design. Unfortunately, the timing and funding for construction of the interchange upgrade is not yet confirmed.

I note that my Parliamentary colleague, the Member for Keira, Ryan Park MP, in whose electorate the Mt Ousley Interchange traverses has been publicly calling on the Government to allocate funding for the next stage of the project.

I have made a representation on your behalf to the Minister for Transport and Roads, the Hon Andrew Constance MP, requesting that he consider the Port Kembla Harbour Environment Group's call for the allocation of additional funding in the 2020-21 NSW Budget.

Yours sincerely

PAUL SCULLY MP

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Mr Paul Scully MP
Member for Wollongong
G2/51 Crown St,
Wollongong NSW 2500

10 August 2020

Dear Paul

Mount Ousley Princes Highway Interchange

By way of introduction, the Port Kembla Harbour Environment Group represents the interest of the diverse communities that surround Port Kembla Harbour. These include representatives from port related industries, the community, local government bodies environmental regulators, education and research interests, and the NSW Ports.

The objective of the Group is to contribute to the protection and enhancement of the Port Kembla Harbour and adjacent environment by providing a constructive forum for the exchange of information and facilitating cooperation between stakeholders.

The adjacent environment includes the rail and road links serving the Port of Port Kembla. These links have long been recognised as having constraints, that if not addressed, will impact on the future development of the Port.

For some years, concept planning has been underway for a proposed Mount Ousley interchange. In 2017, a Review of Environmental Factors for the project was put on public exhibition by Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) and 130 submissions were received. RMS prepared a Submissions Report which was released in 2018, and some money was allocated in the 2018-19 NSW budget for geotechnical and other studies.

Regretfully, no funds were allocated in the 2019-20 NSW budget for this project.

The relevant factors are as follows:

1. The growing traffic on the Mt Ousley Road;
 2. The need to provide a new northern entrance to the University of Wollongong;
- and,
3. The release, last summer, by Wollongong City Council of the draft Keiraville-Gwynneville Access and Movement Study.

The official website <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/about/corporate-publications/statistics/traffic-volumes> gives access to traffic counts on the Mt Ousley road that show in 2019, the annual average daily traffic (AADT) count on this road is 55113, and of this, 15 % are trucks. Accordingly, there are now an average of 8116 truck movements a day on this road. Some of these trucks are coming to and from Port Kembla.



At the meeting of the Port Kembla Harbour Environment Group held August 2020, it was noted that the draft Keiraville-Gwynneville Access and Movement Study prepared for Wollongong City Council on page 33 (Table 3-8 Congestion intersections in the study area) identifies, inter alia, problems with the Mount Ousley Road / Princes Motorway intersection

“ AM The ratio between the speed level of service and the posted speed is less than 30% at a 200 metres approaching distance of the intersection.

On Mount Ousley Road the maximum queue length is around 15 vehicles between in the AM peak.

- 4 “Queuing is most likely caused by drivers having difficulty to find safe acceptable gaps between vehicles to turn right onto Princes Motorway. Vehicles are often reaching around 80km/hour along Princes Motorway and no queuing was identified on Princes Motorway.

“ PM The ratio between the speed level of service and the posted speed is 50% to 69% at a 200 metres approaching distance of the intersection.

On Mount Ousley Road, the maximum queue length is roughly around the same length of the AM peak in the PM peak. There is no queuing on Princes Motorway.”

There would appear to be a case for completing the grade separation of the Mt Ousley Road (the scene of at least one fatal road crash last decade) with over 55,000 vehicles per day than other Princes Highway sections with appreciably less traffic. There may also be a case for this grade separation to proceed concurrently with the Albion Park Bypass, which is proceeding at a cost of \$630 million.

The group would be grateful if you could make representations to the Minister for Transport and Roads, the Hon Andrew Constance MP (and if relevant the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) to see that some funds can be found in 2020 to allow for work to restart on the interchange at the foot of the Mt Ousley Road.

Regards

Chris Haley
Chairperson
Port Kembla Harbour Environment Group

Port Kembla Harbour Environment Group

Key Initiatives and Actions 2018-2020

as at August 2020

Initiative/ Action	Responsibility	Expected Completion	Status
1. Planning for Sustainability			
1.1. Prepare Sustainable Development Guideline	NSW Ports	Jun 2021	In progress
1.2. Prepare NSW Ports Sustainability Plan 2018	NSW Ports	Aug 2019	Complete
2. Stormwater / Wastewater Management			
2.1. Collate Port Kembla Stormwater / Wastewater management information	NSW Ports & tenants	April 2020	Complete
2.2. Guideline for Stormwater / Wastewater Management	NSW Ports	Jun 2021	To be included within Sustainable Development Guideline
3. Illegal Dumping and Litter Reduction			
3.1. Coordinated action for illegal dumping and litter reduction	NSW Ports & tenants	June 2019	Complete
3.2. Assess feasibility of Allans Creek Litter Boom	Council	TBA	Pending funding and resources to assess feasibility
4. Weeds and Pest Control			
4.1. Coordinated plan for weed and feral pest control	NSW Ports & tenants	June 2021	In progress
5. Conserve the marine environment			
5.1. Research towards sustainable anchorage practices – Phase 1, habitat identification	UoW, NSW Ports	Feb 2019	Complete
6. Promote awareness of Port Kembla and its environment			
6.1. Develop educational resources for schools regarding ports	NSW Ports	Apr 2019	Not progressing <i>Post Meeting Note: in lieu of the school education program, we have focused our efforts on:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investing in school programs and partnerships, including Permaculture Partners program - Creating a range of easily accessible information, video content and photo libraries (now live on the website) - Planning for a Port Kembla “port open day” in 2022. - Launching facebook with a steady stream of content - Ongoing media coverage of the port and the various initiatives underway.
6.2. PKHEG website	All members	TBA	Alternate proposal to include materials on NSW Ports website