

Meeting No. 156
Tuesday 13 June 2023
9.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.

Inside Industry, BlueScope

Minutes
Attendees

<p>Community members Ron Hales Mark Peterlin Peter Maywald Phillip Laird</p> <p>Business Representatives Rosa Thomson – AIE/Squadron Energy Lorrie Zammit - Bluescope</p> <p>University of Wollongong Andy Davis Chantel Carr</p> <p>NSW Ports representatives Peter Munro Bryan Beudeker Brooke Eggleton</p> <p>Port Authority of NSW None present</p> <p>NSW EPA Craig Patterson</p> <p>Wollongong City Council None present</p> <p>Department of Agriculture None present</p>	<p>Guest Presenters Dr Sarah Lothian - UoW</p> <p>Apologies Wayne Vorley – PKCT Michael Curley – PKCT Sharad Bhasin – Port Authority of NSW Paul Bollen – Morgan Cement Lana Howell – NSW Ports Kate Flint – Pacific National Sara Starr - AAT Karl Batshon – Wollongong City Council Nigel Harpley – IXOM Brian Kiely – PK Gateway Jess Whittaker – Community member Natasha Porteous – BlueScope Alex Lovell – AIE/Squadron Energy Greg Newman – EPA Peter Ernst - Port Authority of NSW</p> <p>Chairperson & Minutes Chris Haley – Chairperson Natalie Murphy – Minute Taker</p>
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1. Introduction & Apologies:

- 1.1 Acknowledgment of the Dharawal people – Chris Haley
- 1.2 Welcome attendees and guest presenters– Chris Haley

2. Guest Presenters – Dr Sarah Lothian – UoW- Australia at the BBNJ negotiations and its role in the concluding stages - Appendix A

- High Seas Treaty – media refers to the BBNJ Agreement as the 'High Seas Treaty' but this is misleading as it actually covers 2 maritime zones (the High Seas which encompass the water column beyond the 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone of coastal States and the International Seabed Area which lies beyond the continental shelf of coastal States and comprises the seabed, ocean floor and subsoil beyond national jurisdiction. These two maritime zones (the High Seas and the International Seabed Area) fall under 2 different regulatory regimes which has complicated management of marine biodiversity.
- United Nations agreed to new BBNJ Agreement in March 2023 (set to be adopted at the end of June 2023)

Queries relating to:	Responses/Updates
Question: Which government department does this fall under?	The Australian Attorney General's Department and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has been in charge of overseeing Australia's part in the BBNJ negotiation process
Question: Confirming beyond normal jurisdiction it is 200 nautical miles?	Yes, that is correct. We are talking about waters beyond national jurisdiction, so beyond the 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework that was adopted in December 2022 is aiming to protect 30% of marine and coastal ecosystems by 2030.
Question: Is this similar and will apply to BBNJ?	Yes, the goal is to also protect 30% in areas beyond jurisdiction. But this is not specifically stated in the BBNJ Agreement. At the moment, only 1.2% of high seas fall under actively managed marine protected areas
Question: Are you a commentator of the BBNJ or an active member?	I did not take part in the negotiations on the ground. My book was used by the Australian delegation in the negotiation process.
Question: It is true that Japan dumps its nuclear waste into the waters?	I am not able to speak directly to this issue. However, there is a lot of political pressure placed on Japan diplomatically. Japan feels entitled to do this. States are pushing back particularly small island developing States who have concerns about the environmental ramifications. If you are travelling with nuclear waste on board your vessel, some countries will not permit you to go within 200 nautical miles of their coastline.
Question: What is the enforcement body?	In International Law, all States are sovereign. If there is a State in breach of international law, another state/s can take to the International Court of Justice or International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.
Question: Do you have any comment on plastics?	International there are negotiations taking place on a new plastics treaty. Sarah to send Plastics contact to Chairman, Chris Haley.

Question: There are sunscreens that are toxic?	There are Newcastle university students who conducted a study in deep waters that found a species of prawn that has consumed plastics has become a large part plastic. Sarah to send link to article. Appendix B
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3. **NSW Ports Community Research Findings – Peter Munro, NSW Ports** **Research process**

- Community consultation/engagement/investment review conducted July-November 2022, across NSW Ports sites of Port Botany, Port Kembla and the Enfield Intermodal & Logistics Centre
- Research process included focus groups with residents living near those sites, phone and online surveys of larger samples of community members and in-depth interviews with key community members, including members of the PKHEG

Key findings for Port Kembla community members

- Awareness of Port Kembla is high (c. 90% of those surveyed), with many community members feeling proud of the port and valuing its contribution to the local economy and jobs.
- Awareness of NSW Ports is relatively low among community members – with many people believing it is a government organisation
- There is a related lack of understanding about what facilities or specific operations are managed by NSW Ports – eg: almost half of those surveyed mistakenly believed NSW Ports was responsible for all activities and facilities at Port Kembla
- Awareness of NSW Ports community investment, engagement and consultation initiatives (such as the PKHEG) is relatively low. This suggests that PKHEG community members are not reporting back to the broader community on meeting discussions. There is similarly low awareness of NSW Ports’ community grants program – noting that residents overwhelmingly support this program once they become aware of it.
- Port Kembla residents indicated the importance of NSW Ports helping to provide essential services, positively contributing to the local economy and protecting the environment in which it operates.
- When asked to nominate preferred community investment programs, respondents provided suggestions such as: employment and traineeships for local disadvantaged groups; apprenticeships or graduate programs with local educational institutions; schools programs; and environmental initiatives.
- Community members indicated that they would prefer to hear news and information about Port Kembla via social media or, in some cases, via email or letters.
- Members of the PKHEG who were interviewed said such consultation groups were an important opportunity to hear about port activities and to have conversations with the port and relevant businesses/operators or authorities, such as local council representatives.
- However, PKHEG community members said they were unclear as to the division of responsibilities between NSW Ports and the Port Authority of NSW

4. **Minutes of Meeting and Actions**

- 3.1 Acceptance of Minutes of Meeting held 4 April 2023
- 3.2 Business arising from Minutes 4 April 2023

ACTIONS	TO RESPOND
Report back on Greenhouse Park remediation plan	Karl Batshon
Plastics contact to be sent to Chris Halay	Dr Sarah Lothian
Link sent to Chris Haley : Plastic Prawn study article	Dr Sarah Lothian
Jess to send photos to Bryan re : Masters Rd off-ramp (grain on road)	Bryan Beudeker
Andy Davis to invite Katarina Peters to PKHEG meetings.	Andy Davis
Chantel Carr to make contact with Brooke Eggeleton to discuss shared learnings and the potential for university participation for port related awareness programs	Chantel Carr
Contact details for Emergency response business at the Port and pass onto Bryan Beudeker.	Lorrie Zammit

5. Harbour related environment matters

5.1 Pollution from MM on Gloucester Blvd – Craig Patterson

- Craig Patterson confirmed the MM Site has now been declared a contamination site. The declaration can be found on the EPA website. MM are working on their final report to the EPA.

6. Round Table Reports

6.1 NSW Ports – Peter Munro /Bryan Beudeker/ Brooke Eggleton

- Peter Munro announced that he has resigned from NSW Ports and will leave the company on 23 June. Brooke Eggleton, NSW Ports Communications Manager, will be the new primary representative from NSW Ports.
- NSW Ports has appointed a new General Manager of Corporate Affairs, Jon Stewart
- Brooke Eggleton runs NSW Ports Community Grants Program. The successful grantees for 2023 will be announced in the next couple of weeks.
- This year there was an increase in the digital marketing campaign for the launch of the grants program to raise awareness, partly in response to NSW Ports' community research findings. The campaign ran for 6 weeks and helped to triple the applicants for grants. The Community Grants Program has supported more than 50 initiatives or organisations over the past three years.
- A community member suggested involving local schools to increase the awareness of NSW Ports and their achievements. Brooke noted that NSW Ports has already partnered with Inside Industry to host primary school bus tours of Port Kembla. In 2022, 500 children participated in the program with great feedback. In 2023, it is estimated that 700 primary school children will participate in the program.
- NSW Ports recently released their 40-year Master Plan, which is available on their website. The Master Plan, which outlines how NSW Ports will meet growing trade needs and diverse trade over the next 40 years, includes plans for an offshore wind facility at Port Kembla, which will later serve as a container terminal, once Port Botany nears capacity.

4.2 AIE/ Squadron

- Community member Ron Hales asked if dredging has recommenced in the inner harbour?
- Rosa confirmed that rectification works commenced in May at B101 and emplacement cell construction activities are scheduled to recommence in August 2023.

4.3 Community Members

- Mark Peterlin attended a Defence Meeting re: nuclear submarine base. Mark noted that Marika Calfas (CEO - NSW Ports) made it clear there is no space for a facility to be built at Port Kembla. Defence noted it requires a nearby university, a manufacturer of steel on site and deep-water access. Peter Munro noted that the Federal Government's current position has pushed the decision out to the late 2020's with all location options back on the table.

4.4 BlueScope

- Lorrie attended ARCON – a site next to the MM site. It is an emergency response business with over 5 million dollar of emergency equipment. Lorrie watched a presentation on tools that monitor environmental matters. This site also holds training facilities. Lorrie is to get contact information of business owner and pass onto Bryan Beudeker.

4.5 UoW

- Andy noted that information relating to the 12 designated anchorages off Port Kembla suggests that they have been closely adhered to. The UoW are now looking at the recovery of areas that are no longer anchored on.

- Chantel Carr noted UoW School of Geography and Sustainable Communities undertook the PK Community Investment Fund Round 5 consultation last year, and there may be an opportunity to collaborate to help the community better understand available funding streams for community projects. Chantel to touch base with Brooke to discuss shared learnings.

7. General Business

6.1 Support for Motion

- Chris Haley wrote a letter of support to the Wollongong City Council to support Janice Kershaw's motion.

8. Next Meeting:

DATE: 1 August 2023

VENUE: Inside Industry, BlueScope

TIME: 9am to 11am