

Meeting No. 138
Wednesday, 7 August 2019
9.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.

NSW Ports' Board Room, Level 3 Maritime Centre
91 Foreshore Road, Port Kembla

Minutes

PRESENT

Trevor Brown	NSW Ports
Andy Davis	University of Wollongong
Ron Hales	Community Representative
Chris Haley	Chair
Nigel Harpley	Ixom
Stephanie Jurd	GrainCorp
Dene Ladmore	Quattro
Natalia McGregor	NSW Ports
John Macpherson	Pacific National
Lawrence Zammit	Bluescope Steel
Greg Newman	Environment Protection Authority
Luke Pascot Paul	PICCT
Glynn	Linx HSSE
Doyle Cook	Port Kembla Gateway

1. Apologies

Mark Peterlin	Community Rep
Phillip Laird	Community Rep
Alison Broad	UOW
Evan Wissell	AAT
Sharad Bhasin	Port Authority
Renee Winsor	Wollongong Council

- 2. Presentation – NSW South Coast Marine Tourism Strategy –**
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/regional-nsw/20-year-vision-for-nsw-south-coast-marine-tourism/>

- 3. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting No. 137 held on Wednesday, 19 June 2019**

4. Key Initiatives and Actions

TB went through Key Actions (Appendix A) and updated the group.

Anchoring has been listed as a potential threat to marine habitats and so NSW Fisheries have released some funding that can be used.

Report from the UOW anchoring project may be made public on the website -TBC.

TB clarified that Sustainability Development Guideline for NSW Ports is more of a development tool and standard for all port developments. This document will be reviewed and upgraded to a 'Sustainable Development Code' later this year. The Sustainability Plan on the other hand is a strategic document with actions and targets that NSW Ports will undertake.

5. Climate Change

- Nothing further on this

6. Road and Rail Infrastructure

John Clifford from Transport for NSW has been invited to the next meeting and can provide us an update / information. The draft letter to Mr Paul Scully, on behalf of the PKHEG has been reviewed, Natalia and Andy to finalise this and send a copy to the council.

7. PKHEG Website

No update on this, website release has been delayed.

8. Legislation and Policy

Mark Peterlin submitted an article via email from the Sydney Morning Herald describing the outcomes of a review of assessment reports produced by the Department of Planning (Appendix B).

Lorrie Zammit – a few years ago the Dept of Planning invited stakeholders to a series of workshops and recognized the need to reduce red tape.

Improvements have been coming very slowly as a person who has to give independent audits/reports sometimes the processes they have are very slow.

Trevor Brown – a few years ago they released a series of draft guidelines for environmental impact assessment with lots of consultation. Only now has it resurfaced and it looks as though these guidelines will be released. They aim to standardise the process.

Greg Newman – EPA is involved in the planning process, but only as a referral body. EPA can't determine outcomes. EPA is usually asked to comment on various policies/processes.

Andy Davis –noted the article is from September 2018 what has happened since then?

Greg Newman – The Department's website is getting better, they are working on a Major Projects website.

Lorrie Zammit – it would be good if planning approval compliance was an easier process for projects which are covered by EPA licences. The Dept of Planning reporting and auditing requirements are separate to the EPA licensing requirements. A DA can be 10 or 20 years old, where as an EPA license is current as of today.

Chris – How can we help improve this?

Ron – Can we ring the local member?

Trevor Brown – Suggest that we wait until the new guidelines are released by the Department and see whether they address the issues.

9. Round Table Reports (update on Harbour related information)

LINX

Paul Glynn is representing Linx Berth 109 as a temp HSE Manager.

NSW Ports

Trevor Brown – announced the NSW Ports Sustainability Plan launch and advised the committee that emails will be sent out to all stakeholders in the next 2 weeks.

Breakwater Battery Museum painting was completed along with refurbishment of the WWI German artillery gun, which is now displayed outside the museum.

New signage has also been placed on the outside wall of the museum.

Seascape café closure- a new tenant will be sourced to reopen the café as soon as possible.

Graincorp

Stephanie Jurd – Jane Curran has resigned, she's accepted a role with NSW Dept of Planning and Environment. A new environmental advisor has started based in Brisbane and will be down next month.

EPA

Greg Newman – review of the POEO Act has been completed recently. The driver was for EPA to monitor tunnel stacks in Sydney. Another review is about to start and should include rounds of consultation.

Community

Ron Hales – the Allan Sefton Memorial Lecture will be held at UOW on Friday 16 with relevant content on Climate Change

Bluescope Steel (BSL)

Lorrie Zammit – no specific update on Bluescope. General info – environmental regulator in Victoria is stopping all e-waste from going to landfill and it is possible other states might follow suit in the future.

Port Kembla Gateway

Doyle Cook – PKG is proceeding with the dry fogging system and is 50% complete.

Quattro

Dene Ladmore – currently handling the imported wheat from Canada. Typically filling 100 boxes per day, which is equivalent to about 50 wagons on rail. This will continue to the end of the year.

NSW Ports

Natalia McGregor – NSW Ports has completed the set-up of Biosecurity Incident response kits for common user berth's 201 and 206. This is complemented by a procedure and NSW Ports is finalising along with Biosecurity Awareness Training that will be issued out to all stakeholders.

Trevor Brown – Update on Wollongong Causeway - We have been working with council to lower the causeway which drains most of central Wollongong as a way to lower the risk of flooding. The predicted flood level will reduce by 50-100mm.

A final investment decision on the proposed Gas terminal has been temporarily delayed.

Chair

Chris Haley – Asked Laurie from Bluescope if he has any thoughts on the Council Flood study for Allens Creek which runs through Bluescope.

Lorrie Zammit - no comments on flood study. Cardno had a study in Wollongong which showed that large parts of Wollongong and Figtree are affected by potential flood.

10. New Business

New Community Rep

NSW Ports intends to contact Neighbourhood Forum 7 and ask them to nominate a member to join PKHEG as a community representative.

[Post meeting note: Natalia reached out to Peter Maywald from Community Forum 7 (which includes Berkeley, Cringila, Lake Heights, Port Kembla, Primbee, Spring Hill, Warrawong and Windang). The request was to nominate a member of this forum to be a committee member for PKHEG. Peter has volunteered himself and will attend his first meeting later in the year].

11. Next Meeting:

DATE: Wednesday, 2 October 2019

VENUE: NSW Ports Board Room
Level 3, Maritime Centre
91 Foreshore Road
PORT KEMBLA

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

RSVP: Trevor Brown on Telephone: 4275 0714
or E-mail trevor.brown@nswports.com.au

Appendix A

Port Kembla Harbour Environment Group

Key Initiatives and Actions 2018-2020

as at August 2019

Initiative/ Action	Responsibility	Expected Completion	Status
1. Planning for Sustainability			
1.1. Prepare Sustainable Development Guideline	NSW Ports	Dec 2019	In progress
1.2. Prepare NSW Ports Sustainability Plan 2018	NSW Ports	Aug 2019	To be launched in August
2. Stormwater / Wastewater Management			
2.1. Collate Port Kembla Stormwater / Wastewater management information	NSW Ports & tenants	April 2020	Not commenced
2.2. Guideline for Stormwater / Wastewater Management	NSW Ports	Dec 2019	Not commenced
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	Oct 2019	Scoping phase
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	On hold
6.2. PKHEG website	All members	Dec 2019	In progress

Assessment of major projects 'opaque'

Lisa Visentin

State politics

Some of the state's largest and most complex development proposals are being assessed in a manner which is "opaque" in both logic and rationale, according to an independent review.

The Department of Planning will implement a new template for assessing major projects and will train staff to clearly articulate the merits and risks of proposals, in a bid to fix the flaws in its assessment processes.

The review, conducted by NSW public service bureaucrat Lisa Corbyn, examined the assessment reports prepared by departmental staff for 19 projects across five sectors, including mining, infrastructure and renewable energy.

It found a "considerable variation in the tone and analytical approach" in the reports and "a significant variance in whether [the reports] presented clear analysis and explanation of the logic for their conclusions or not".

Under NSW planning processes, the department is required to produce assessment reports - which evaluate the merits of specific projects - for every development proposal deemed "state significant". The reports are a key tool for determining whether a project should be approved.

Ms Corbyn found while some reports were "thorough, rigorous and clear" other reports were "difficult to digest and somewhat opaque in their logic and rationale".

The Department said it commissioned the review in a bid to address criticism from stakeholders that the reports were "difficult to understand, inconsistent, lacked technical rigour, pay insufficient attention to community issues, and fail to fully address relevant statutory matters".

A spokesman for the Department of Planning said it had accepted the findings and had implemented changes to address all 15 recommendations.

These include improving community consultation processes, new templates to improve consistency across the reports, and bolstering the compliance measures for projects once they are approved, including through independent audits.

"The Department continues to focus on improving processes to ensure best practice in its operations and engagement," the spokesman said.

The review is part of a broader approach by the Planning Department to tighten up its decision-making processes.

In July, Planning Minister Anthony Roberts tasked the former deputy commissioner of the NSW Police, Nick Kaldas, with auditing the state's planning system for corruption risks, following a string of high-profile scandals.

Mr Kaldas is expected to deliver a draft report to the Planning Secretary by the end of the month.

1HERSAT A008 NR

Assessment of major projects 'opaque'

Lisa Visentin

State politics

Some of the state's largest and most complex development proposals are being assessed in a manner which is "opaque" in both logic and rationale, according to an independent review.

The Department of Planning will implement a new template for assessing major projects and will train staff to clearly articulate the merits and risks of proposals, in a bid to fix the flaws in its assessment processes.

The review, conducted by NSW public service bureaucrat Lisa Corbyn, examined the assessment reports prepared by departmental staff for 19 projects across five sectors, including mining, infrastructure and renewable energy.

It found a "considerable variation in the tone and analytical approach" in the reports and "a significant variance in whether [the reports] presented clear analysis and explanation of the logic for their conclusions or not".

Under NSW planning processes, the department is required to produce assessment reports – which evaluate the merits of specific projects – for every development proposal deemed "state significant". The reports are a key tool for determining whether a project should be approved.

Ms Corbyn found while some reports were "thorough, rigorous and clear" other reports were "difficult to digest and somewhat opaque in their logic and rationale".

The Department said it commissioned the review in a bid to address criticism from stakeholders that the reports were "difficult to understand, inconsistent, lacked technical rigour, pay insufficient attention to community issues, and fail to fully address relevant statutory matters".

A spokesman for the Department of Planning said it had accepted the findings and had implemented changes to address all 15 recommendations.

These include improving community consultation processes, new templates to improve consistency across the reports, and bolstering the compliance measures for projects once they are approved, including through independent audits.

"The Department continues to focus on improving processes to ensure best practice in its operations and engagement," the spokesman said.

The review is part of a broader approach by the Planning Department to tighten up its decision-making processes.

In July, Planning Minister Anthony Roberts tasked the former deputy commissioner of the NSW Police, Nick Kaldas, with auditing the state's planning system for corruption risks, following a string of high-profile scandals.

Mr Kaldas is expected to deliver a draft report to the Planning Secretary by the end of the month.

1HERSAT A008 NR