

**FURNEAUX GROUP SHIPPING SPECIAL COMMITTEE
UNCONFIRMED MINUTES**

DATE: Friday 2 September 2022
VENUE: Rose Garden Room, FAEC, Whitemark
COMMENCING: 1.00pm

1. MEETING OPENS

1:00pm

2. PRESENT

MEMBERS		
Position/Organisation	Name	In-Attendance
Mayor - Chairperson (non-voting)	David Williams	Yes
Councillor (1)	Aaron Burke	Yes
Councillor (1)	Vanessa Grace	Yes
General Manager - Flinders Council (non-voting)	Warren Groves	Yes
Agriculture/Livestock Sector (1)	Scott Wood	Yes
Cape Barren Island Aboriginal Association Incorporated (1)	Denise Gardner	No
Commerce/Business Sector (1)	David Bellinger	Yes
Department of State Growth (non-voting)	Arun Kendall	Yes (via Teams)
Shipping Company – Bass Strait Freight (1)	David Harris Patrick Duffy	Yes (via Teams)
Shipping Company – Eastern Line (1)	Warren Dick	Yes
Farming Sector (1)	Grant Hall	No
Flinders Island Business Incorporated (1)	Max Parker	Yes
TasPorts (1)	Craig Bull	Apology
Transport Sector (road on Flinders Island) (1)	Mark Pitchford	Yes
Community Representative (1)	Michelle Hirschfield	Yes
Biosecurity Tasmania Representative (1)	Andrew Carter	Yes
GUESTS		
Batchelor Civil Contracting	Tim Smith	Yes
Elders		
Animal Welfare Representative (NRE)	Luke Bond	Yes (via Teams)
Tasmanian Police	Christopher Parr	No
Department of State Growth	James Verrier	Yes (via Teams)
TasPorts	Lynn Cooper	Yes (via Teams – taking notes on behalf of TasPorts)
STAFF		
Development Services Officer (Minute Taker)	Rowena Gill	Yes
Executive Assistant	Kyra Newman	Yes

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST – Councillors Only

Nil

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee from the 25th of May 2022 be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Vanessa Grace Seconded: Cr Aaron Burke
Carried

5. CORRESPONDENCE

2022.07.04 J O'Dell - Concerns with stun gun use

2022.08.13 D Harris - Concerns over freight certainty at Lady Barron Port

2022.08.29 TasPorts – Notice - re Temporary Closure of Lady Barron Port

6. BASS STRAIT FREIGHT UPDATE

David Harris updated the committee on his meeting with Tas Ports.

Regarding his discussions with Tas Ports, he referenced the email sent to members noted in correspondence in.

He has had no feedback from Tas Ports to confirm any new arrangements or concepts that were discussed. Currently no stevedore license or lease over the shed or cattle yards have been issued to Bass Strait Freight to operate in the port. He has heard there have been complaints about prices, however, their investment in a new ship and equipment has resulted in considerable expenditure. Bass Strait Freight would like clarification and documentation regarding who is responsible for what at the port, at present there are no formal guidelines, rules, procedures in place to follow or make it clear who is responsible. Tas Ports are dictating what goes on at present. There was an accident at the port recently where a fuel tank tipped over. Responsibility for the incident is still under discussion at this stage. Qube only have jurisdiction inside the port and the incident occurred outside the port.

7. TASPOTS UPDATE

Media Release from 25th August 2022

“Stage Three (the final stage) involves remediation of the pavement sections between the access road, main cargo handling area and the RORO Ramp, part of which has been completed.

As you would be aware, this staging has permitted continued access to the port and RORO ramp. The next part of Stage Three necessitates work immediately adjacent to the RORO ramp and as such, we will need to close the RORO ramp for a minimum of 14 days to facilitate.

Accordingly, this is to advise TasPorts will close the RORO ramp from 26 September 2022 to 10 October 2022 subject to weather conditions.

The ability to handle palletised freight across the RORO ramp (using a small forklift) and light vehicle access will still be possible during the 14-day shutdown period. The full closure applies to containerised freight which requires a larger forklift and trucks which will not be able to access around the worksite during this period.”

- a. Questions from members of Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee members and answers provided

Attachment: 7.1 - 2022.09.02 Questions and Answers for TasPorts - Furneaux Special Shipping Committee Meeting

Warren Groves reads out all questions and answers at the meeting.

Vanessa Grace - Councillor:

Question

Is it true that the ports entrance for the livestock trucks has been moved onto Franklin Parade?

Answer

No not true, the option was explored for trucks to use as an exit point.

1. If this is true- which way are the livestock trucks going to be turning and going? Are they going back out onto the Council Road and then onto State Road? Or Coming along Franklin Parade and turning up
2. If going onto Council Road there will be issues with the road surface under those extremely old pine trees and then the very dangerous turn onto State Road. I don't see how a cattle truck will be able to turn safely, especially with a full load?
3. If turning onto Franklin Parade and then up West Street have the following factors been considered.
4. Preschool wait zone, school pick up zone, Community Gym, F.I.A.A.I, and I do not see how they will navigate the corner at the corner of Franklin and West Street
5. Whilst I clearly have a conflict of interest as I live on Franklin Parade, I have also been in the position to see how much Gunter's Bay is utilized. It is used by kayakers, families for picnics, walkers and runners, swimming, visitors stop and take photos continually during summer.
6. Has Council been informed or consulted on this heavy traffic decision?
It is my view the Livestock trucks should be within the working port area as before.

Max Parker – Flinders Island Business Incorporated:

Question

He would like to discuss the freight equalisation scheme. He thinks it needs to be reviewed. And Cube and staff employed, and do we need to employ them?

Answer

Lynn has downloaded information from internet and dropped off at the shop. TasPorts do not deal with the freight equalisation scheme.

Michelle Hirschfield – Community Representative Member:

Question

Could TasPorts please confirm or deny rumours of the livestock loading/unloading ramp being relocated to a different position to where it is situated currently.

Answer

This has been a point of discussion only at this stage, due to traffic safety management issues with cattle trucks and trailers operating in an uncontrolled area.

Question

Could TasPorts please explain in detail, what's happening with the fuel spill clean-up area and their plans/intentions for that space in the short, medium and long term.

Answer

All contaminated waste has been removed from the Lady Barron Ports site and relocated to the old Lady Barron council waste site. Five 50 x 2.5 metre Bio piles have been constructed with the soil has been mixed with various products to help break down the diesel contaminants in the soil this will take approximately 2 years.

The use of the land is still under review at this stage.

Question

Has TasPorts established their "onsite animal euthanasia" procedure as yet, in consultation with the local livestock handlers (the subcommittee?) and has this been communicated to both the shipping companies as well as the local livestock agents and the shipping crews? The committee as yet has had no minute response that I'm aware of

Answer

This is being addressed by the shipping group sub committee

Question

Can TasPorts offer assurances that the proposed shipping interruptions they've advertised out to the community, are unlikely to drag on longer and if they do, what contingency plans have been made to minimise further disruption to the weekly shipping service that is currently provided to the island.

Answer

Tim Smith has a revised plan for works taking into consideration that Flinders Island show day is the 14th of October 2022, Tim will address.

The Chair commented that it was disappointing Tas Ports were in not attendance to answer questions in person.

Further questions

Tim Smith acknowledges businesses in the community which need to continue to be able to run their business as usual through the proposed dates for works on ramp work. Tim can see coming up to Spring that there will be more movements for fertiliser and cattle.

Proposed dates for the ramp work currently is 26/09/22 – 10/10/22.

Tim and Company will wait for the boat to leave the port, then proceed with their work to break up concrete, followed by the removal of old concrete and then repoured with new concrete.

28-days to cure, TasPorts have taken responsibility for this section and will give it 7-days.

Batchelor will not take responsibility.

Flinders Island Show is on 14/10/22 – will the proposed dates cause disruption?

Small forklift will always have access to ramp area and Cattle can walk on and off for the proposed 10-days of ramp maintenance. Shipping companies will have access to the port for the show preparation.

Unfortunately, there will be no semi-trailer access.

Test cylinders are being taken to check breakage strength, all tests are done within 14-days, looking at completing within 7-days.

Tim suggests after general freight boat leaves on 13/09/22 that they start breaking the concrete. No work stops because the boat comes in.

They can use spotters to ensure live edge is not damaged. They will demolish at night if required.

Tim hands out attachment of planned ramp works

Attachment of planned ramp works

Yellow represents the complete areas.

Orange is to be completed on Sunday.

Pink represents future pouring to be done on Tuesday

It is expected that it will be a 10-day period for the whole process (best case scenario), 14-days could be worst case scenario. Tim is confident with 10-day period for proposed works.

First pour was opened within 14-days. 650mm live edge has been managed really well on first pour.

Warren Dick – asking if engineers are happy with 7-days planned for concrete to set.

Tim Smith - TasPorts will take responsibility if proposed dates fail.

Shipping companies will still be able to do a full load on and off, with minor to no damage expected to occur.

Warren Groves – how do the dates proposed sit with both shipping companies?

Eastern Line Shipping (Warren Dick) - no problems with dates provided.

Question from Warren Dick – regarding curing time of cement, will it go past the 10 days due to unforeseen weather complications?

Tim Smith – No, weather conditions can help to set the cement. The average temperature is 12-16 degrees.

Bass Straight Freight (David Harris) – no problem or issues to report

Eastern Line Shipping (Warren Dick) - they will load the supplies on board, run up into shed as usual Supermarket and businesses will still receive their usual orders on proposed dates.

Warren Groves – how do we ensure all parties are communicating?

Tim Smith will ensure that Mick Sherriff is ready to go when concrete is needed to pour. Just waiting on confirmation of dates.

Schedules need to be arranged. Who will do this?

Tim will be guided by both shipping companies and when they have finished operating is when engineers will begin work.

Tim believes there will be little disruption to usual arrangement of cattle being loaded onto the boat.

Cr Vanessa Grace - Once decided on dates, let businesses know as soon as possible

Warren Groves offered Council resources to help get the word out in the community

Patrick Duffy (Bass Strait Freight) to investigate the tide before deciding dates and times

8. ANIMAL WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

Andrew Carter Update

This subcommittee formed on 16 February 2022 and have met twice since then, during April and May 2022

The subcommittee is investigating who is responsible for animals at different points of transport, more importantly at the Lady Barron wharf.

All parties need a simple written document that outlines the use of instructions to support decision making when catering to an injured animal. For example, a flow chart.

Subcommittee have questioned the use of a gun and investigation into which is the safest option for all parties when catering to an injured animal.

Andrew received correspondence from Arun Turner from Qube in July 2022, discussing that they are formulating a procedure of issue when animal goes down. Since this correspondence there has been two more incidents and continued issues. The need of this document and procedure to be formalised is important. Currently in discussions with both shipping companies on this matter.

It is important that a Stevedore prepares the document.

Biosecurity requesting a procedure and clear understanding of what needs to be put into place.

Vet is the only person who can sign off on a lame animal being shifted to be euthanised.

Biosecurity is looking for procedure for injured animals from stevedores.

Delay due to uncertainty over Qube.

Andrew is happy to work with Warren Dick and David Harris directly to develop the document for the Lady Barron Wharf.

David Harris - At Bridport Wharf, they hire a third party for these incidents. Andrew asked if David Harris could provide the document.

Scott Wood discussed an incident which occurred in July 2022 and handed an attachment from Nutrien to the committee.

Scott encourages all parties involved to move towards a procedure or checklist for these incidents.

Luke Bond recently stepped into the role replacing Russell.

His department could be consulted about the checklist if needed but will not be responsible for developing it. Luke is looking forward to contributing to this topic when he gains more context.

Andrew Carter – There has been news in the community of both shipping companies having their own stevedore licenses

Warren Dick – nothing to report

David – discussions with TasPorts for their own license and their own purpose. Nothing to officially report. Lease area north of cattle yards, shed, store forklift which are concepts at this stage.

Bass Strait Freight would hold animal welfare responsibility if they take over. Objective to is remove Qube and make Bass Strait Freight responsible, this could improve service if they took over and it will add overheads to Bass Strait Freight.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Max Parker – How can we get TasPorts to give community answers to stevedores.

Warren – He can arrange to meet with Craig with questions and future consultations.

David Harris – referring for Max to read the letter, for latest updates. Including waiting for an agreement from Tas Ports about port management.

Scott Wood – No consultation with stakeholders regarding the proposed ramp.

Committee would like improved communication from TasPorts.

Tim Smith – truck loads of concrete was buried to build up the truck route and improve with a layer of concrete. It is wanted to reduce truck loads to the Whitemark Tip.

David Bellinger – how is the deck going on the boat, is there improvement?

David Harris (Bass Strait Freight) – They have chipped off the existing deck and brought dairy matting to reduce damage to supplies. They cannot slide yards in over the mat and changed yards so they fit over locking pins. The rest of the deck has not been sand blasted and painted as yet, it is needed to go back on line. Cattle is currently standing on rubber yarding, in the future there will be matting for individual yards. \$20,000 improvement and about 2/3 of the way through improvement. It is estimated that improvement on boat will be completed during summer

Scott Wood agreed that it has improved.

David Harris acknowledges all the money worth and precious cargo the shipping company is transporting, and they are aware of how important the cargo is to be looked after well.

Patrick Duffy reports the safety of personnel and public on the wharf. No near misses and incidents to report.

Tim Smith needing confirmation Tues 13/09 date proposed for works to begin.

Bass Strait Freight ensuring that their supplies will be on the island.

Eastern Line Shipping will consult the date with Tim.

Councillor Vanessa Grace - expresses appreciation from Sally Walker (Walkers IGA) to David and Bass Strait Freight. And thank you to Tim Smith, for how he has rolled the project out and how he is managing the project.

Scott – thank you for bringing meeting forward

David Harris inviting the committee to Bridport to show operations at the port.

Cutting off entrance to allow turning of boats. Wants support for cutting off entrance proposal. Make it an all-tide port for all vessels.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE:

To be decided - in late November

11. CLOSE OF MEETING:

2:07pm