

**FURNEAUX GROUP SHIPPING SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
UNCONFIRMED MINUTES**

**DATE:** Tuesday 14 February 2023  
**VENUE:** Rose Garden Room, FAEC, Whitemark  
**COMMENCING:** 1.30pm

**1. PRESENT**

<b>MEMBERS</b>		
<b>Position/Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>In-Attendance</b>
Mayor - Chairperson (non-voting)	Rachel Summers	Yes
Councillor (1)	Garry Blenkhorn	Apology
Councillor (1)	Vanessa Grace	Yes
General Manager - Flinders Council (non-voting)	Warren Groves	Yes
Agriculture/Livestock Sector (1)	Scott Wood	No
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 zoom
Shipping Company – Bass Strait Freight (1)	David Harris	No
Shipping Company – Eastern Line (1)	Warren Dick	Yes via zoom
Farming Sector (1)	Grant Hall	Apology
Flinders Island Business Incorporated (1)	Max Parker	No
TasPorts (1)	Craig Bull	Apology
Transport Sector (road on Flinders Island) (1)	Mark Pitchford	Apology
Community Representative (1)	Michelle Hirschfield	No
Biosecurity Tasmania Representative (1)	Andrew Carter	Yes
<b>GUESTS</b>		
TasPorts – Island Group Coordinator	Roy Berkin	Yes
TasPorts – Manager Governance, Risk and Resilience	Mark Harriss	yes
<b>STAFF</b>		
Executive Officer (Minute Taker)	Vicki Warden	Yes

**2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST – Councillors Only**

None declared.

**3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Moved: Cr Vanessa Grace    Seconded: Andrew Carter

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee from 2 September 2022 be confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**4. CORRESPONDENCE**

2023.02.13 Grant Hall - Resignation from Farmer's Representative position

Moved: David Bellinger    Seconded: Cr Vanessa Grace

That nominations be called to fill the vacant Farming Sector position on the Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## 5. TASPOTS UPDATE

Mark Harriss, Risk Governance and Resilience Manager attended the meeting in lieu of Craig Bull and Trent Bourke, the new Operations Manager. Mark reported that the main activity TasPorts has been involved with is confidential negotiations around critical services. He was unable to speak further on this other than to say the matter should be resolved soon.

TasPorts has also been working with Biosecurity on animal welfare and the approach to this matter will be finalised soon. Other works include keeping up maintenance at the port.

Warren Groves asked if Mark could comment on the recent work at the port. Mark inspected the works that day and confirmed that the work was very close to completion.

David Bellinger noted that the ramp access at the port was no longer available. Trucks and utes are no longer able to load bikes, 4-wheelers, machinery making it unsafe. He requested TasPorts investigate providing access to a solid ramp for loading. Warren Dick supported this request. Mark prioritised this matter for discussion with Craig Bull.

Warren Groves noted that he has been developing a very positive working relationship with Trent Bourke, Ben Sully and Phil Hoggett of TasPorts which he very much appreciates.

## 6. BASS STRAIT FREIGHT UPDATE

Although David Harris was not in attendance at the meeting, he had provided the following as late agenda items:

*6.1. A request for the Flinders Island shipping Committee to support the Bridport Channel re-alignment to lower cost of freight to Flinders Island.*

This project has significant support in Bridport because, it's been on the agenda for nearly 20 years.

- It will open up the front beach to the town residents and tourists.
- Place the end of the shipping channel into water 3 metres deep.
- Shorten and straiten the channel so that it can be dredged by way of bed levelling to maintain a channel depth of 3.5 metres in all high tides
- Eliminate sailings where we can't leave or arrive fully loaded. (Every 100 tonnes of freight increases vessel draft by 30 centimetres).
- Allow vessel turn arounds on the same tide.
- Create *all tide* access for trailer boats.
- Allow better access for visiting fishing vessels and yachts. There is no all tide shelter and moorings between Beauty Point and St Helens

Fixing the channel will reduce our costs by about \$1m per year. We think this development would lower freight rates to Flinders Island by about \$10.00 per tonne.

Bruny Island is receiving Government funding of \$2.5M to improve berthing arrangements and the ferry service is subsidised. King Island received \$2.4M for a new RORO ramp at Devonport and gets ongoing funding to run their ferry service of \$4M per year. All the work on the Bridport entrance and channel has been funded by the Bales family and Flinders Island Shipping service operates without Government funding

*6.2. Plans to develop the Lady Barron Freight Shed to meet HACCP food safety certifications, improve security and make the flow of freight more systematic.*

Refer attached plans and aerial map showing traffic plans.

Moved: Cr Vanessa Grace    Seconded: Andrew Carter

That the two matters proposed by Mr David Harris for discussion be deferred until he is present at the meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **6. TRANSPORTATION OF FOOD**

Concerns have been raised regarding lack of refrigerated food transport from the port to Whitemark food businesses and food safety. Seeking clarity around concerns and process to ensure food safety.

Last week food was delivered via a shipping container. Council's Environmental Health Officer was unable to check the configuration of container but will be investigating in the coming weeks.

The matter has been raised in this forum previously but there has been no formal response. Committee members require a better understanding of the challenges around this.

Moved: Cr Vanessa Grace    Seconded: Andrew Carter

That the chair of the Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee sends an email to David Harris enquiring about refrigerated food transport from the port to Whitemark, in particular, concerns about refrigeration of the food and general food safety.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **7. ANIMAL WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Andrew Carter reported that there hasn't been a specific meeting of the sub-committee since the last Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee meeting. The sub-committee wasn't getting much traction with stakeholders, so Biosecurity has taken over this role. Progress has been made on developing protocols for dealing with animals at the port and improving communication with Biosecurity on how animals are being treated. After almost 12 months since Biosecurity was asked to contribute to this Committee on the matter of animal welfare, Andrew is expecting to be able to bring finalised animal welfare protocols to the next committee meeting. Therefore, the issue that the sub-committee was initially formed has been resolved.

Moved: Andrew Carter    Seconded: Cr Vanessa Grace

That the animal welfare sub-committee be disbanded as the reason the sub-committee was initially formed has now been resolved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

Cr Vanessa Grace asked that TasPorts investigate runoff from the TasPorts site observed at the corner of the rocks as walking from Gunter's Bay towards the wharf.

Mark Harriss confirmed that this would be investigated and tested.

Warren Dick congratulated the Community on the very successful Flinders Island Show. He said that it was very good for the islanders to come together; and it was a great opportunity to listen to people, get a feel for the islanders' situation, and to gain new customers. Mayor Rachel Summers thanked Warren for his generous support of the Show Society.

Andrew Carter said that Biosecurity had been working directly with the two shipping companies to improve biosecurity information transfer in relation to items customers were bringing to the Island from interstate and to ensure customers were well informed. Warren Dick commented that

maintaining this level of awareness will be beneficial to all. His crew had recently identified machinery that did not appear to be clean enough to come to the Island. They let Warren know, who then discussed it with Andrew, and the customer was informed that the machinery had to be cleaned. The customer has the machinery cleaned satisfactorily in time to be transported on the boat.

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Tuesday 16 May at 1.30pm

**10. CLOSE OF MEETING:**

1.57pm