

**FURNEAUX GROUP SHIPPING SPECIAL COMMITTEE
UNCONFIRMED MINUTES**

DATE: Monday 7 August 2023
VENUE: Rose Garden Room, FAEC, Whitemark
COMMENCING: 1.39pm

1. PRESENT

MEMBERS		
Position/Organisation	Name	In-Attendance
Mayor - Chairperson (non-voting)	Rachel Summers	Yes
Councillor (1)	Garry Blenkhorn	No
Councillor (1)	Vanessa Grace	No
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 (Via Teams)
Department of State Growth (non-voting)	Arun Kendall	No
Shipping Company – Bass Strait Freight (1)	David Harris	Yes (Via Teams)
Shipping Company – Eastern Line (1)	Warren Dick	Yes (Via Teams)
Farming Sector (1)	Nick Campion	Yes
Flinders Island Business Incorporated (1)	Max Parker	No
TasPorts (1)	Craig Bull (on leave) Mark Williams	Yes (Via Teams)
Transport Sector (road on Flinders Island) (1)	Mark Pitchford	No
Community Representative (1)	Michelle Hirschfield	Yes
Biosecurity Tasmania Representative (1)	Liam Harrex	No
GUESTS		
TasPorts – Island Group Coordinator	Roy Berkin	No
STAFF		
Executive Officer (Minute Taker)	Sue Mythen	Yes

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST – Councillors Only

Nil

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**Moved: Michelle Hirschfield Seconder: Mark Williams**

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee from 15 May 2023 be confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**4. CORRESPONDENCE**

Attachment: 4.1.1 2023.07.03 - N Campion - Appointment to Shipping Committee

The chair welcomed Nick Campion to the Committee.

5. MEMBERSHIP

To discuss the resignation of Andrew Carter and the temporary appointment of the Biosecurity Tasmania Representative, Liam Harrex (the Principal Biosecurity Officer), while the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania appoints an on-island Biosecurity Officer.
Lead person: Rachel Summers

Attachment: 5.1.1 2023.07.19 L Harrex - Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee of Flinders Council

Mark Williams (TasPorts) has been on the island for the last three weeks whilst Craig Bull is on leave.

The Chair will seek confirmation from Flinders Island Business Inc. on who their representative will be.

6. NOTIFICATION OF LATE BOAT ARRIVALS

The Mayor has received comments from food businesses on the island who would like to receive notification if the boat is running late. The committee will discuss this item and brainstorm other ways for food businesses to receive this news as not everyone reads the 'Flinders Island Community Noticeboard' on Facebook.

Lead person: Rachel Summers

Rachel Summers noted not everyone sees Facebook notifications and asked if a group text or email could be sent out. David Harris confirmed that a group email can be sent to notify businesses if the boat is running late. He added the boat had only been late twice in last 6 months.

Nick Campion asked if suppliers could be advised as well. David Harris feels there are too many to make this possible, but it can be looked at.

7. TASPOTS UPDATE

Mark Williams provided an update in Craig Bull's absence.

Qube have left the port, hence his arrival as an increased presence until stevedoring licences have been worked through. It is his first time here and it seems to be a good little port.

There will be discussions around the footprint and boundaries once stevedoring licences have been finalised. Both BSF and Eastern Line Shipping are talking behind the scenes to secure licences.

Mark Williams will not be involved in licencing process.

David Harris considers Taspots licence conditions are too hard, and he will not sign a licence as it is currently.

Warren Dick confirmed everyone needs a stevedoring licence, he met with Trent Burke (new Taspots General Manager) last week and feels comfortable they will be able to secure a licence. Lady Barron is similar to what they have already set up in Stanley which is a 24 hour service.

One of Taspots conditions require the stock yards to be run by the shipping company, not Taspots. David Harris hopes someone on island could take on the stock yard side of things (i.e. a community group or stock agents to source appropriate solution).

Michelle Hirschfield advised that Mark Pitchford has resigned as transport representative.

Motion: Michelle Hirschfield Seconded: Nick Campion.

That the resignation of transport representative Mark Pitchford be accepted, and the Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee advertises to seek nominations for a Transport Sector representative.

Carried Unanimously

8. BASS STRAIT FREIGHT UPDATE

David Harris provided an update to the committee. There are a few cattle going north, a couple of new staff at Lady Barron, upgrading being undertaken of a few sheds and fuel infrastructure.

The following motion was passed at the 15 May 2023 Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee Meeting:

“MOTION

*Moved: Deputy Mayor Vanessa Grace Seconded: Michelle Hirschfield
The Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee requests an update on
the stevedore licencing lease on normal commercial grounds.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

The committee received an update on the above motion. See item 7 above.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Attachment: 9.1 Flinders Island Projected Agriculture Production for 2023-2024

Attachment: 9.2 Tabled questions for TasPorts

Nick Champion tabled a document detailing an overview of the projected reduction in gross agriculture revenue for the current year 2023/2024. Refer attachment 9.1

Nick Champion made the point that **“the party is over”**. At these projected prices and weight agriculture/island gross income will decrease by at least \$13,600,000. As a primary producer/islander we must focus on controlling costs to limit the impact of lower revenue.

David Harris acknowledged that with such a reduction in income farmers will “nail their cheque books shut”. Resulting in a major reduction in general freight for his company BSF. No more new cattle yards, new sheds, and less fencing materials to name only a few items.

David Harris assured the meeting he will be relentless in driving cost savings. Half of BSF freight is generated from 80 – 90 farmers, so when they experience a downturn, it affects shipping.

Nick Champion tabled a document of questions for TasPorts. Refer to attachment 9.2. Nick Champion appreciated that Mark Williams isn't in a position to answer these questions.

Mark Williams assured the meeting he would pass them on to Trent Burke. Trent Burke is the new general manager of TasPorts. Mark Williams ensured the meeting Trent is a good communicator, and he will be a positive influence. A meeting will be arranged between Mark, Nick and Trent.

Nick Champion briefly spoke on the questions tabled.

- BSF has been unable to negotiate satisfactory commercial lease for the Lady Barron Port. If we could compare the lease agreement King Island Port Corporation Pty Ltd.
- Can we be updated on the fuel spill which has been investigated.
- Sending TasPorts staff from King Island to do general maintenance at Lady Barron Port seems extremely expensive.

Nick Champion asked Warren Dick whether supplying TasPorts Fuel to Lady Barron Port is a core part of his business. Warren Dick's reply was “NO”. Cattle, general freight, and anything required

is the basis of his business. He assured the meeting things are working well and understands there will be a downturn but will continue to provide a good service.

An Elders representative used to attend the meeting as a guest, the members agreed to have Gavin Coomb as a replacement observer from Elders.

Elders stock people are not currently being notified of boat delays; BSF will address this.

There are concerns at present for a lot of people regarding the ability to get stock onto the boat when they need to get it out. David Harris understands the frustration, he will manage the issues and it will be rectified.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE:

Monday 13th of November 2023, 1.30pm, Rose Garden Room, FAEC, Whitemark

11. CLOSE OF MEETING: 2:15 PM

29 June 2023

Nicholas A Campion
Coral Glen
162 Wingaroo Road
Memana TAS 7255
E: nickcampion@bigpond.com

Dear Nicholas

RE: Appointment to the Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee as a Farming Sector Representative

I am pleased to advise you that Council ratified your appointment to the Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee of Council at the 28 June 2023 ordinary meeting of Council.

As the current Chair, I welcome you to the Committee and look forward to your valuable input.

Attached are the Terms of Reference of the Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee and minutes of the last two meetings for your information. Council's Governance team, Vicki Warden, Kyra Newman and Sue Mythen, will keep you advised of meetings etc. Council's preferred form of communication regarding committees is via email. If this form of communication does not suit you, please let Council's Governance team know on 6359 5010.

Thank you in advance for giving your valuable time.

Yours sincerely,



Rachel Summers
Mayor | Chair of the Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee

From: [Harrex, Liam](#)
To: [Governance](#)
Subject: RE: Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee of Flinders Council
Date: Wednesday, 19 July 2023 3:05:46 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image001.tso](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image006.jpg](#)

Hi Kyra,

Until we recruit a replacement for Andrew's position you can appoint me as an interim member.

Kind Regards,

Liam



Liam Harrex
Principal Biosecurity Officer - Biosecurity Operations Branch | Biosecurity Tasmania
Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

E: liam.harrex@nre.tas.gov.au | M: 0418 539 491 | P: 03 6777 2161

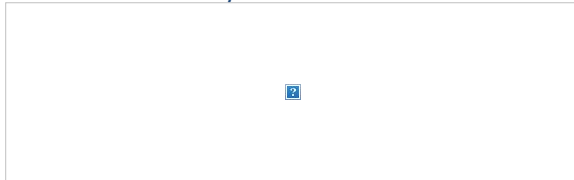
Address: 165 Westbury Road, Prospect, 7250
Mail: PO Box 46, Kings Meadows, TAS, 7249

Keep yourself up to date on Biosecurity in Tasmania...
Web: www.nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity
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Biosecurity Tasmania



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From: Governance <governance@flinders.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 July 2023 1:04 PM
To: Harrex, Liam <Liam.harrex@nre.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee of Flinders Council

Hi Liam,

I am emailing you on behalf of the Mayor of Flinders Council, Rachel Summers.

Referring to the below email, it was suggested that Council contacts you regarding the appointment of a Biosecurity Representative on the Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee.

The committee meets around four times a year and this is generally in person at the Furneaux Arts and Entertainment Centre located in Whitemark.

It would be appreciated if you could let me know who the Department of Natural Resources and Environment nominates for the Biosecurity representative on this Council committee.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Regards,

Kyra Newman | Executive Assistant
Monday - Thursday
P. (03) 6359 5008
E. kyra.newman@flinders.tas.gov.au or governance@flinders.tas.gov.au



Website: flinders.tas.gov.au
Facebook: [Facebook.com/flinderscouncil](https://www.facebook.com/flinderscouncil)

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From: Carter, Andrew <Andrew.Carter@nre.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 8:35 AM
To: Kyra Newman <kyra.newman@flinders.tas.gov.au>; Governance <governance@flinders.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Furneaux Group Shipping Committee

Hi Kyra,

I am finishing up with Biosecurity next week. As such, I am standing down from my position on the Furneaux Group Shipping Committee. Deepa Adhikari will be the local biosecurity contact on the island, but for any shipping committee related matters, I suggest you contact Liam Harrex (liam.harrex@nre.tas.gov.au) who is the Principal Biosecurity Officer based in Launceston.

Regards,



Andrew Carter
Senior Biosecurity Officer (Furneaux Group)
Biosecurity Operations Branch | **Biosecurity Tasmania**
Primary Industries and Water Division
Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
Office: 2 Lagoon Road, Whitemark (Flinders Island) TAS 7255
Postal: PO Box 5, Whitemark TAS 7255
T: (03) 6359 2148 | M: 0460 003 047
E: andrew.carter@nre.tas.gov.au
W: www.nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania

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Flinders Island Projected Agricultural Production for 2023-2024.

- Agriculture on Flinders Island is dominated by Beef production.
- For the coming year 2023-2024 beef prices have decreased by 20% (From \$4.56/kg to \$3.60/kg Lwt).
- A 20% decrease in beef prices will mean a 30% decrease in price per head. (From \$2,160/hd to \$1,620/hd)
- Flinders Island produce approximately 28,000 hd per annum.
- The reduction in price will mean Flinders Island Gross Revenue will decrease by \$13,600,000.

Tabled Questions for TasPorts.

As stated in TasPorts Annual report 2021-22, Taports leases from the King Island Port Corporation Pty Ltd the infrastructure and operating assets of the King Island Port. Has is lease been drawn up focusing on TasPorts Legislated Principal Objectives of:

- Facilitate trade for the benefit of Tasmania, and
- Operate its activities in accordance with sound commercial practice.

Has the lease with Bass Strait Freight which operates the Lady Barron Port been drawn up with TasPorts Principal Objectives of:

- Facilitate trade for the benefit of Tasmania, and
- Operate its activities in accordance with sound commercial practice.

The major elements of these commercial leases we would like to be able to compare are:

- What are the terms of the leases between the two ports?
- What are the annual fees between the two ports?
- What is the wharfage between the two ports?

As stated in the Annual Report, the fuel spill at Lady Barron Port is being investigated, can you update us?

As stated in the Annual Report, Flinders Island Ports Company Pty Ltd is one of five Economic Entities which Tasport report on. Why did it not trade 2021-2022 financial year? How can the directors ensure accountability to the shareholder without financial statements?

Strategic direction of TasPorts is set by the directors. Can you provide us with TasPorts Strategic 10 Year Plan for the Lady Barron Port?

The Flinders Island community and consumers of TasPorts have found over a long period of time TasPorts are very poor communicators and would rather bully, use stand over tactics and not attend scheduled meetings. Are the directors aware of this and do you believe these negotiation tactics fall into TasPorts legislated Principal Objectives?

As TasPorts Island Group Coordinator (Roy Berkin – TasPorts – Island Group Coordinator) do you think flying TasPorts staff from King Island to service Flinders Island is operating in accordance with sound commercial practice?