

**FURNEAUX GROUP SHIPPING SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
UNCONFIRMED MINUTES**

**DATE:** Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
**VENUE:** Rose Garden Room, FAEC, Whitemark  
**COMMENCING:** 10am

**PRESENT:**

Mayor A Revie	Chair
Cr Vanessa Grace	Council
Cr Aaron Burke	Council
Mark Cooper	Tas Ports Representative
Grant Hall	Farmer's Rep
Michelle Hirschfield	Community Representative
David Bellinger	Commerce Representative
Arun Kendall	Department of State Growth (by phone)
Scott Wood	Livestock Representative
Darren Grace	Furneaux Freight Representative

*Welcome to David Bellinger our new Commerce Representative and Darren Grace our new Furneaux Freight Representative*

**APOLOGIES:**

Mick Rose	FIBI Representative
Chris Murphy	Qube Representative
Heidi Marshall	Acting General Manager

**GUESTS**

Sam Grace	Biosecurity Tasmania
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**Meeting open: 10.02am**

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

Darron Baker	Executive Officer (Minute Taker)
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**DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:**

At the 14 December 2017 Council Meeting, Council resolved the following motion:

1. *"That Council agrees to grant exemption from pecuniary interest to the community members appointed to all of its Special Committees for a period of 12 months.*
2. *That Council again considers the pecuniary interest of community members on its Special Committees at the December 2018 Ordinary Meeting of Council."*

In accordance with Part 2 Regulation 8 (7) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, Councillors are requested to advise of a pecuniary interest in respect to any matter appearing on the agenda, or any supplementary item to the agenda.

No pecuniary interest was declared.

## **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

**Moved: G Hall**

**Seconded: M Cooper**

That the minutes from the meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 are a true record.

**CARRIED**

## **CORRESPONDENCE IN:**

Nil

## **CORRESPONDENCE OUT:**

Letter to Furneaux Freight

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Item 1: Clarification of Committee functions**

That, in order to fulfil its key purpose of facilitating positive communications among the various individuals and organisations involved in the transportation of freight from source to destination, the Furneaux Special Shipping Committee undertake the following practices:

- Positive communication amongst all stakeholders in relation to transporting freight to and from Furneaux Islands
- Actively listening to and considering the views of all
- Treating all committee members respectfully
- Striving to understand the big picture and where individual issues fit into it rather than simply pushing individual issues
- Being willing to change opinions if it will help the work of the committee
- Speaking out and advocating views and / or suggestions clearly – aiming at the issue rather than the individual / organisation
- Sticking to factual evidence rather than hearsay and avoiding blaming
- Bringing all issues regarding transport of freight to this committee and supporting committee decisions.

These practices will be added to the special committee's terms of reference.

### **Item 2: Motion for appointment of Mark Pitchford as Transport Representative**

Mark Pitchford has expressed an interest in joining the Furneaux Special Shipping Committee as Transport Representative.

**Moved: M Cooper**

**Seconded: S Wood**

That Mark Pitchford be appointed as Transport Representative to the Furneaux Special Shipping Committee.

**CARRIED**

### **Item 3: Request from Elders**

Livestock Operations Manager Chris Durant has requested to be an observer at Special Shipping Committee meetings.

**Moved: M Hirschfield**

**Seconded: M Cooper**

That Elders Livestock Operations Manager Chris Durant be approved to attend the Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee as an observer.

## **CARRIED**

### **Item 4: Report from Mark Cooper, Tas Ports**

#### **Animal Welfare**

Tas Ports are currently seeking advice on some issues before completing their animal welfare document. A draft is almost complete and will be distributed to stakeholders for revision before finalising document.

Furneaux Freight were contacted regarding acquiring a stevedore license, however to this point have not attained one. Further discussions are occurring with Furneaux Freight.

#### **Qube at Ports**

Qube were scheduled to leave Flinders Island on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 and have had that term extended to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019. Currently stevedoring is being advertised to all parties available to take on a contract.

#### **Replacement Fuel Truck**

Tas Ports currently has a new fuel truck awaiting delivery in Devonport for Flinders Island and should arrive in the next two weeks.

#### **Camera Surveillance at the ports**

Currently Tas Ports are adding additional cameras to the ports area at Lady Barron. It is a requirement for the ports to have extensive camera surveillance.

### **Item 5: Mayor Annie Revie's meeting with Furneaux Freight**

Annie reported a very productive meeting with Shannon Lovell. Furneaux Freight prepared three papers for Annie on current operations, history of the company, and an issues paper. Since the beginning of the business of serving Flinders, price changes have been nominal. Annie also had the pleasure of seeing the new ship. The new ship will have a greater carrying capacity, as well as being able to hold 70 passengers and providing a comfortable area during the journey. Annie also discussed the carrying of animals on trailers and advised that such a practice could significantly inflate the cost of animal transport and the cost of super. Annie confirmed, through discussions between Furneaux Freight and Darren Grace, that the loading ramp taking animals to and from the top deck, has been extended, making transport of animals much better. Further to the extension of the ramp, new designs are being considered such as an electronic ramp, as well as consistent improvements at Bridport and Flinders Island to address safety concerns, including some deck resurfacing. The appointment of Darren Grace as the representative for Furneaux Freight to the Furneaux Special Shipping Committee is also a very positive move.

### **Item 6: Animal Welfare**

In relation to continuous improvement in the animal welfare area, the following points have been outlined.

- Possibly facilitating training for relevant staff in relation to cattle transport, loading and unloading at the wharves;
- Roberts Limited will be undertaking stock handling training courses over the next few months for staff. Roberts Limited have also undertaken euthanasia accreditation, which Scott Woods currently holds.
- A discussion with John O'Dell in relation to best practice and flexibility when putting together procedures for handling emergency events, including animal euthanasia.
- A discussion with Russell Hunter stressed the need to minimise issues leading to animal distress as well as on the need for a commitment to agreed emergency

- procedures.
- To appoint a representative to the Furneaux Special Shipping Committee from DPIPWWE to assist in animal welfare issues.
  - The recording of data to allow comparisons in relation to animal welfare issues on a yearly basis and to assess performance and maintain high animal welfare standards.
  - A discussion with the state government revealed that formerly a sum of \$250,000 had been budgeted annually to address critical Furneaux Shipping Committee concerns. The funding was originally granted for such things as: to address community concerns, fund community benefits in relation to shipping, as well as funding a charter ship if the shipping operator at the time was to default. The funding has been used in the past to provide refrigeration at the ports for example. The funding ceased several years ago but its availability could be explored for future issue solutions.
  - Concerns raised around freight pick up / drop off areas. Recently a large freight drop off was in the way of loading / unloading cattle. There is also community concern that transport, and distribution of freight is kept within the ports area.
  - Our new Commerce Representative, David Bellinger, is tasked with engaging with some community business stakeholders in relation to any shipping concerns and logistical issues. Stakeholders include local stores, food businesses, farms etc, where freight is food, wet or dry items.
  - There was a short discussion of the ongoing need to consider accumulation time that animals are involved in over a whole journey. This will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

**Moved: Cr V Grace**

**Seconded: M Hirschfield**

That Biosecurity Tasmania hold a representative position on the Furneaux Special Shipping Committee, through Russell Hunter (add title) or Sam Grace in his absence.

**CARRIED**

**Next Meeting:**

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 10.00am in the Rose Garden Room at FAEC.

**Meeting closed: 11:52am**