

Furneaux Group Shipping Special Meeting: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

Apologies: Aaron Burke, Scott Wood, Russell Hunter, Sam Grace, Grant Hall

Present: Mark Cooper, David Bellinger, Darren Grace, Vanessa Grace, Annie Revie, on speaker phone Arun Kendall (State Growth ), Michelle Hirschfield, Chris Durrant,

Staff in Attendance: Heidi Marshall Acting General Manager.

Meeting opened: 10.02 am

Arun on speaker phone at 10.03 am. Introductions made by Mayor Annie.

Welcome made to Chris Durrant.

Community members do not have to declare a pecuniary interest. Councillors asked if they have a pecuniary interest. Answer was no. Mayor Annie explained pecuniary and conflict of interest in response to a question from David Bellinger.

Confirmation of previous minutes: Moved Darren Grace Seconded David Bellinger.

Correspondence out: Sent out to Chris Durrant, Russell Hunter, Mark Pitchford

Correspondence in: Russell Hunter to say he won't be at this meeting, will try and attend the next meeting.

A reminder that we are here to solve problems, not make them.

**Matting:** Grant Hall not in attendance. Mark Cooper has said the matting has arrived from NZ. It is designed for sale yards. Budgeted additional money for this year and next year if it is successful. Its not cheap but if it does what it is meant to do it will be worth it. Stops fatigue and foot soreness. Matting is for the port.

**David Bellinger provided an update re business owners:** He contacted a few people and spoke to people purchasing stock. The following have been reported by farmers:

- Hip and shoulder injuries;
- Squeeze points;
- Need to train people on the boat in stock handling;
- Need training on the use of prodders.
- 2 to 3 % injury on arrival.
- The time cattle spend from source to destination. If we tighten the system up, do we need another loading ramp? The loading ramp over the other side has no walk way and not safe.
- Are store cattle being looked after as well as the other cattle?
- Fertilizer should be under cover. Times it is getting wet.
- Pot holes in the wharf are making it hard to unload and move around the wharf.

David doesn't think the injury rate is getting back to the farmers. Darren asked on the type of injury and what may be the result of this. Improvements have been made in the last 6 months.

Darren mentioned **a stock handling course** coming up in October. Shannon does not think it is suitable for her staff to attend this course. The person that is running that course may be able to work with the guys on the boat when they are loading the boat if the timing is right. Chris Durrant says there is a course available to do online. Darren says that the guys off the boat have completed that course. The other course is hands on and would be more beneficial. Chris said they are

running a face to face course in Longford today. Darren explained that the person coming to run the course is from NSW. Michelle said that if the timing does not work out maybe the people off the boat can attend the course in Longford.

**Mark Cooper report:** Safe Harbour. Negotiating with stevedore license with Shannon. Things are looking good with that. New fuel truck and new fencing. Lifted fuel gantry to correct height. Fuel pumps are being changed out. Allowance made for wombat. Pro matting we have already talked about. Minor pot holing. Fencing work to be done. New block down there for a power pole and a camera to be installed. Safe Harbour surface in the yards itself is a 1.6 million dollars refurbishment. Mark is having trouble sourcing that money. TasPorts have said they will spend about \$900,000.00 in the ports area. Leigh Bryant coming across to do planning and species in the next couple of weeks. The other operations pending is rejigging the road into the port. General Manager over with Burbury, Sam and Jarred. Looked at things they can do with the port when they were over. Vanessa asked is the 250,000k available to help with the Ports upgrade. Darren went on to explain what that money was there to be used for. Mark Cooper happy to get his people to speak to Michael Ferguson re this matter. Annie asked re the lack of shelter from wet weather for freight. Talks are taking place about the shed. Bulk fertilizer needs to be moved sooner. Changes with the Stevedoring would let fertilizer move more quickly off the port. Mark Cooper said things can be scoped out. We have learnt that the \$900, 000.00 is more for TasPorts than Safe Harbour. We should have some plans we can discuss by the time the next meeting comes out. Heidi asked what the conditions of the \$250 k was for and if it is still available.

Any other questions of Mark. Michelle asked if there is an update on Qube. 31<sup>st</sup> of October is the current finish date. There is an in-principle date to extend the date. Mark cannot discuss details at present.

Can not discuss the **animal welfare** because Scott is not here.

**Darren gave an update.** Walk way in Bridport is being updated as we speak. Walk way, access gate on the ramp to the back of the truck and designing a door that spins both ways. Gate at the bottom of the ramp.

Darren mentioned to Matthew what needed to be done when he was away. Nick Hingston is working with Furneaux Freight addressing the issues. Shannon is very happy with the negotiations on Tasports and Mark Cooper. Freight rate will be reduced if current negotiations keep going the way they are.

Two Island producers have just made the MLA awards - the Cox family and the Walker family. Improvements on the MSA grading . The temperament of their cattle has been improved as well, helping the shipping process. Mentioned cameras on the port. There are cameras on the port at Bridport if they need to be accessed at any time. Furneaux freight are happy for those cameras to be accessed if the need arises.

Heidi asked about **insurances**, Darren thought that they had gone down but Scott Wood is probably the person to ask. This is the first time they have been able to have serious talks with TasPorts. Corporate affairs will be over to keep the profile up. Any other questions to Darren. On the new boat there is extra capacity for animals - is there allowance been made at the port to have them at the port. Potentially 150 more cattle may be able to be moved. They are looking at options in the Bridport. Looking at the top deck containers. Passenger numbers will be 70. They are having a lift on pod designed to carry passengers.

Possibly passenger terminal or waiting place may be needed.

Chris asked Darren was the Captain of the boat unwell. He was and there is now a fall back plan going into place. There will be a backup skipper. Darren said he would ask the Councillor's to go and visit the Bayles family to see what they are doing and have achieved with the new boat. Perhaps in the new year.

Heidi reported re Tas water and their temporary plan to facilitate a desalination plant. There will potentially be a hard pan left on the site. We need to look at considerations going forward for where the site may be. Mark Cooper had been in discussions with TasWater on what possibly may go in that site. It is on Crown Land. Mark has asked on the potential of brine and the dead zones that will be produced in the Franklin Sound. Issues with trucks, turning circles, pipes and the slip way.

Mayor Annie brought up **accumulation time**. What things can we do to cut down the time. Curfew times can be done on farms not all in the yards. The limiting thing we have at the moment is the trucks. We are limited to three trucks. Darren mentioned they can not work of a night. We as farmers cannot work safely at the moment as people are not set up to do this.

This is not a topic for this Committee. Mayor said we could facilitate a meeting as a possibility. Darren mentioned that perhaps the productivity group could facilitate this meeting. Heidi said of potential grants to help the carriers have lights.

She said we may be able to train up people to drive of a night.

Annie asked is communication to the various groups sufficient.

David Bellinger to mention to a few farmers re the problems that may be improved on.

Mark Cooper asked what the Islands view on Cruise Ships. Annie said FIBI said there were too many negative issues surrounding them. The larger ones are too hard. The smaller ones may be able to land. FIBI put in a submission to support smaller cruise ships only. There is a new market to the State re expedition class vessels. Safe Harbour will help facilitate these visits.

The next meeting will be Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December. 10 am FAEC.

Meeting closed @ 11.32