

**FURNEAUX GROUP SHIPPING SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
UNCONFIRMED MINUTES**

**DATE:** Wednesday 11 December 2019  
**VENUE:** Rose Garden Room, FAEC, Whitemark  
**COMMENCING:** 10.03am

**PRESENT:**

Mayor A Revie	Chair
Cr Vanessa Grace	Council
David Bellinger	Commerce Representative
Darren Grace	Furneaux Freight Representative
Mick Rose	FIBI Representative

**APOLOGIES:**

Cr Aaron Burke	Council
Mark Cooper	Tas Ports Representative
Grant Hall	Farmer's Rep
Michelle Hirschfield	Community Representative
Arun Kendall	Department of State Growth
Heidi Marshall	Acting General Manager
Mark Pitchford	Transport Representative
Scott Wood	Livestock Representative

**GUESTS**

Russell Hunter	Program Coordinator, Animal Welfare Biosecurity Tasmania
Chris Durant	Livestock Manager, Elders

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

Vicki Warden	Executive Officer (Minute Taker)
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**DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:**

At the 14 December 2018 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 2020 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: Cr V Grace                      Seconded: D Grace**

That the minutes from the meeting held on the 18 September 2019 are a true record.  
**CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE IN:**

Email from John O'Dell – Requesting a screen for use if an animal needs to be euthenased at the Port. Considered a good idea - TasPorts responsibility to provide.

**CORRESPONDENCE OUT:**

Nil

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Annie to welcome committee members and explain slight change to agenda**

For this agenda, Annie went through the various reports from the previous minutes, identified issues that needed to be addressed, and included these issues as agenda items.

**2. Mark Cooper to report on outcome regarding matting**

Darren Grace reported that sections of new matting have been installed in high slip areas and is working very well - 80% improvement. TasPorts has purchased a quantity of matting and will replace the old matting with new matting in due course.

David Bellinger asked how to encourage TasPorts to install the remainder of the matting purchased. Given that the trial has been a success and animals are being hurt in other areas, the remainder of matting should be installed as soon as possible.

Darren explained that TasPorts needs access to the Port for a week in order to lay the matting and they are hoping to do this between Christmas and New Year.

**3. Darren Grace to report on any progress with stock handling course for boat crew**

A stock handling course was held on island, however the Furneaux Freight crew were unable to attend. Furneaux Freight will organise someone to provide the training in Bridport in the new year.

**4. Mark Cooper to provide an update on progress with stevedore issue, including re Qube**

Committee members reported that Anthony Donald, TasPorts CEO, visited recently and confirmed that Qube would be finishing up soon and that TasPorts is hoping to announce how stevedoring would work in the Port. Waiting for an update from TasPorts but expecting arrangements to be finalised early in the new year.

David Bellinger said that it was hoped that if TasPorts became the stevedore, Furneaux Freight would be provided with more port facility for general freight.

**5. Heidi to provide update re Safe Harbour Project**

Annie Revie reported that a letter had been sent to the Prime Minister requesting a transfer of \$1.8m from the Safe Harbour grant to the Airport runway upgrade project, in order to cover the entire cost of the runway project.

The actual cost of the Safe Harbour project is \$5.6m and the government promised \$4.8m, so the project will have to be redesigned to meet the budget. Council is also concerned about the ongoing maintenance and depreciation costs. Given the need to redesign the project, the decision was made to apply to the Federal Government to reallocate the funds. If granted, there will be \$3m left. TasPorts and Burbury Consulting will redesign the Safe Harbour project to meet the new \$3m budget and Council needs. Council received and noted a petition signed by 70 community members requesting that no ratepayers' money be spent on Safe Harbour.

**6. Mark Cooper to update committee on enquiries with Michael Ferguson on funding for Port Improvements, including shed for freight**

Darren Grace reported that Furneaux Freight now has access to more space in the shed as the wall has been removed.

**7. Mark, in collaboration with Scott, to report on progress re animal welfare issues / report**

Chris Durant confirmed that TasPorts should have a euthanasia policy for every port they operate. Russell Hunter explained that Biosecurity follows state legislative requirements regarding euthanasia, but the State Government doesn't impose a policy on a port. Handling of firearms on a port, how to dispose of a carcass etc. is specific to each port and is the responsibility of TasPorts to determine. Annie Revie reported that Anthony Donald, TasPorts CEO, mentioned that senior management had met to discuss this issue recently.

Committee agreed to wait for TasPorts to report back before drafting a policy.

**8. Darren to update committee re progress with improvements to port at Bridport: walkway, access gate, door for easier access**

Work has started on the new walkway and Furneaux Freight is hoping to complete the work between Christmas and New Year.

**9. Scott to report on status of insurance claims in recent months.**

Chris Durant informed the Committee that no public report on the total insurance claims exists.

**10. Darren to give committee information re new vessel, including Port's (Bridport) ability to deal with increased numbers of cattle**

Completion of the new vessel is a year away and is expected to hold about 25% more cattle than the current one. The configuration of the top deck has yet to be determined. It may be designed to hold containers that animals can be transported in.

Bridport can not increase yard facilities so having enough trucks to take the cattle away in peak times could be an issue. One option is to transport cattle in containers, move the containers into the yard and leave the cattle in the containers until trucks can pick them up. This has the added benefit of being able to control effluent etc.

Design features of the new vessel to speed up loading and unloading were discussed, including two ramps at two different off-loading points, however there is no room at Bridport to get two trucks side by side or two separate off-loading points.

The yards at the Lady Barron Port will have to be increased to hold the extra cattle.

**11. Annie to report on plan for Councillors to visit Furneaux Freight and see new vessel.**

Annie Revie is planning a trip for Councillors to visit Furneaux Freight in the New Year at a time to suit Shannon Lovell, Furneaux Freight. Darren Grace told committee members that they are welcome to visit Furneaux Freight at any time to inspect the new vessel.

**12. Heidi / Mark to provide update on how TasWater is progressing with temporary desalination plant plans**

Annie Revie explained that the Henderson Dam, which supplies Whitemark's town water, needs to be emptied, increased in size and sealed over the summer months. TasWater plans to install an interim desalination plant at Lady Barron to supply Whitemark with water during the operation. There could also be water restrictions during this period.

**13. Grant Hall to consider whether minutes should be sent to Farmers' Groups**

Annie Revie asked if the Farmers' Group was well enough informed of decisions made by the Committee. Darren Grace responded that Grant Hall has sent out the minutes of the meeting to the Farmers' Group through Anna Anderson in the past.

**14. Other business:**

Unused Shipping Contingency Funds

In the past, the government allowed the Committee to expend unused shipping contingency funding. It has been suggested that these funds might be able to be used for a general freight shed at the Port. Mark Cooper was to raise this point with Michael Ferguson. Annie Revie will contact Mark for an update.

Membership

The Committee discussed the merits of including a Biosecurity Tasmania representative on the Committee.

Moved: V Grace      Seconded: D Grace

That the Committee recommends to Council that the Terms of Reference be changed to include a Biosecurity Tasmania representative in the membership.

CARRIED

**15. Next Meeting: 26 February 2020 at 10am**

**16. Meeting closed: 10.54am**