

## FURNEAUX GROUP SHIPPING SPECIAL COMMITTEE UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

**DATE:** Wednesday 19 August 2020  
**VENUE:** Rose Garden Room, FAEC, Whitemark  
**COMMENCING:** 10.00am

### PRESENT:

Mayor A Revie	Chair
Cr Aaron Burke	Council
Cr Vanessa Grace	Council
Warren Groves	General Manager (Items 1 & 2)
David Bellinger	Commerce Representative
Grant Hall	Farmer's Representative
Michelle Hirschfield	Community Representative
Arun Kendall	Department of State Growth (via phone)
Russell Hunter	Biosecurity Tasmania Representative (via phone)
Scott Wood	Livestock Representative
Mick Rose	FIBI Representative
Darren Grace	Furneaux Freight Representative

### APOLOGIES:

Mark Cooper	TasPorts Representative
Mark Pitchford	Transport Representative
Denise Gardner	Cape Barren Island Representative

### GUESTS:

Nigel Brown	Elders Livestock Agent
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### STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Vicki Warden	Executive Officer (Minute Taker)
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*The Chair welcomed Russell Hunter and Arun Kendall to the meeting (both attending by phone) as well as Nigel Brown, who attended as a guest, (standing in for Chris Durrant).*

*Unfortunately, Mark Cooper was unable to attend the meeting, due to an inability to get a seat on the plane, however Annie Revie and Warren Groves met with him on 18 August. At that meeting, Mark provided answers to some questions and confirmed that he would endeavour to attend future meetings in person.*

### 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: D Grace

Seconded: D Bellinger

That the minutes from the meeting held on the 11 December 2020 are a true record.

CARRIED

**CORRESPONDENCE IN:**

15.06.2020 TasPorts - TasPorts Schedule of Port Charges 2020-2021

17.08.2020 Grant Hall – Concerns for discussion at Committee meeting

**CORRESPONDENCE OUT:**

01.04.2020 Committee Members – Postponement of meeting due to coronavirus

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Matters under discussion from previous meetings / not yet resolved:**

**1.1 Matting and Lighting**

Mark Cooper reported that the impacts of COVID-19 had slowed processes in TasPorts. The project to replace the matting has been approved and is now in a priority list with other projects ahead of it. TasPorts has installed cameras and can now see slippage occurring. Mark has applied for approval to do emergency work on the matting to reduce the slippage in the interim. Mark asked committee members if, in the short term, they would prefer all the matting to be removed or leave it in place until the new matting is installed. Committee members agreed that current matting must stay in place until new matting installed.

Committee members explained that slippage at loading is an OH&S issue for the personnel handling the cattle. It is dangerous for the cattle and injured cattle can damage the reputation of the Island's livestock industry. Farmers have invested heavily to improve their infrastructure for the safety of the cattle and transporters are also doing everything they can.

The Committee wished to thank the Peddle family for their years of service transporting cattle on the Island.

Grant Hall explained that for the months of spring, there will be a major increase in cattle transportation. This means there is a 6-8-week window of opportunity to replace the matting. If not done then, the next opportunity won't be until Christmas.

*Action: TasPorts to discuss with farmers the timing to lay the matting before it is done.*

Lighting at the port is also an issue. The lights have been changed so they don't attract mutton birds, but now they are not bright enough when work is underway. . The combination of black cattle in a dark environment and slippage on the matting is potentially dangerous.

Moved: S Wood

Seconded: M Hirschfield

That the Chair write to the Minister, copy to TasPorts, expressing the safety issues with the matting and lighting, asking for matting and lighting to be addressed as soon as possible.

CARRIED

Grant Hall suggested the need to undertake an independent assessment of the cattle transportation process, from farm gate to Longford or similar, to get suggestions on how to improve processes, then develop a 10-20 year plan to implement changes. This could be funded via a grant or possibly via the Shipping Contingency Fund. The Committee agreed this idea held merit. For further investigation.

#### 1.2 Stock-handling training

Nothing to report.

*Warren Groves left the meeting.*

#### 1.3 Stevedoring

Qube was originally engaged as stevedore at the port on a temporary measure. TasPorts and Furneaux Freight are currently working together to find a way forward to function effectively without Qube. Qube is willing to continue in the role until they are no longer needed.

#### 1.4 Animal Welfare Policy re TasPorts – Mark Cooper

A draft document has been prepared by TasPorts and is now with DPIPWE. Once DPIPWE has signed off on the document, TasPorts will gain feedback from the Committee before it is finalised.

Vanessa Grace reported that an anonymous island resident, who goes by the name of Tikka or similar, regularly texts the ABC morning show, commenting on Flinders Island issues, often not based on facts. Many of the comments are against live transport of animals and animal welfare. Vanessa asked if anything could be done about this.

*Action: Seek advice from Warren Groves on how to deal with this.*

#### 1.5 Safe Harbour Project Update

Community Survey was undertaken asking if people supported a council-owned break wall at Lady Barron. The survey had an excellent response rate with 58% in favour. Council has been working with TasPorts, Michael Ferguson, and the Safe Harbour Group to progress the project.

#### 1.6 Improvements to Freight Shed

Removal of an internal wall has created more room and improved the useability of the shed. Pavement repairs will hopefully be carried out by TasPorts in the near future.

#### 1.7 Progress with improvements to port at Bridport: walkway, access gate, door for easier access

Nothing reported.

#### 1.8 Status of insurance claims in recent months

Nothing reported.

#### 1.9 Update on Furneaux Freight's new vessel, including Port's (Bridport) ability to deal with increased numbers of cattle

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Darren Grace reported that the new boat is currently being painted and undergoing its final fit out. It is expected to be in service in 6 months' time. The boat will carry an additional 10% of livestock and has two unloading races for faster unloading times at Bridport. The sailing time is expected to be shorter (5 hours instead of 8) and the turnaround times quicker, potentially enabling two extra trips per week.

## **2. Other Business**

### Fee Increases

TasPorts added 3% fee increase in July and Furneaux Freight followed with an additional 3% too. It is believed that all government agencies were told to hold fee increases for the next year. Why did TasPorts raise their fees? Vanessa Grace has written to Minister Ferguson asking for assistance via improved subsidies, given that the fees increased. Awaiting a response.

### Meeting Frequency and Attendance

Michelle Hirschfield asked about the frequency of meetings and whether there are set meeting dates. The Terms of Reference for the Committee state that meetings shall be held every 4 months however, COVID-19, the Committee has not met since December 2019. The next meeting will be held in October on a date when Mark Cooper is able to attend.

Michelle also noted that the Transport Representative has not yet attended a meeting.

Action: Chair to contact the Transport Representative to determine if he wishes to continue in the role- if not, readvertise.

### Cattle Balking at Loading Races

Whilst watching cattle being loaded, David Bellinger noticed the cattle balking and lashing out at the jokey wheels on the portable races. The cattle also balked when they got to the portable race floats. Blanking out the last 4 panels in the race would be much better for the cattle.

*Action: Nigel Brown and Scott Wood to ask Garth to blank out the panels in the portable race and report back to the Committee when done.*

*Mick Rose left the meeting.*

Michelle Hirschfield asked the Committee for approval for Nigel Brown to attend meetings as a guest if Chris Durrant is unable to attend. Approval granted.

**Next Meeting: 10am 7 October 2020 TBC**

**Meeting closed: 11.27am**