

FURNEAUX GROUP SHIPPING SPECIAL COMMITTEE UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday 29 October 2020
VENUE: Rose Garden Room, FAEC, Whitemark
COMMENCING: 10.00am

PRESENT:

Mayor A Revie	Chair
Cr Vanessa Grace	Council
Warren Groves	General Manager
David Bellinger	Commerce Representative
Darren Grace	Furneaux Freight Representative
Mark Cooper	TasPorts Representative
Mark Pitchford	Transport Representative

APOLOGIES:

Cr Aaron Burke	Council
Mick Rose	FIBI Representative
Grant Hall	Farmer's Representative
Denise Gardner	Cape Barren Island Representative
Russell Hunter	Biosecurity Tasmania Representative (via phone)
Scott Wood	Livestock Representative
Michelle Hirschfield	Community Representative
Arun Kendall	Department of State Growth (via phone)

GUESTS:

Nigel Brown	Elders Livestock Agent
Darryl Clarke	Senior Commercial Manager, TasPorts

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: D Grace Seconded: Cr V Grace
 That the minutes from the meeting held on 19 August 2020 are a true record.
 CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

Nil

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

Grant Hall to the Premier – matting issues

28.10.2020 Kevin Peddle – Thank you for years of service transporting cattle

BUSINESS ARISING

1. Matting & Lighting

Mark Cooper provided the following update. Last year new matting was successfully trialed in the stock yards. Mark prepared a business case for the funding to replace all the matting. Grant Hall's letter to the Premier added additional value to the business case. The full amount of money - \$220,000 - has been approved. This will cover the costs of purchasing, transport and installation of matting in all the stock yards and the main paths through the cattle yards. Committee members agreed that the matting was not needed in the main runs. New matting not used will be stored for replacement as needed. The matting has been ordered and is due to arrive end of December. Planning to start replacement in January. When the old matting is removed it will be made available to the local community for use.

Action: Chair to write a letter of thanks for the funding to Stephen Casey, Chief Operating Officer TasPorts, the Premier, and Minister Ferguson.

Committee members reported that some lighting at the Port was currently out. Mark informed members that another lighting pole was to be installed. The orange lighting, installed to deal with the Mutton bird problem, doesn't attract the birds as much but is not enough for loading at night. Vanessa asked that as Mutton bird season is only for a short time each year, could the bulbs be changed to brighter lights outside of the season. Unfortunately, the lights cannot be changed.

TasPorts is looking at sourcing funding to install white lights, as well as the orange lights, on a different switch. The possibility of installing temporary lighting during night loads was discussed.

2. Future Possibility of Exploring the Assessment of Cattle Transportation from Farm to Destination

At the previous meeting, Grant Hall suggested seeking funding to undertake an independent study of the complexities involved in transporting stock from farm to destination. Furneaux Freight's new boat will transport an additional 70 stock, adding to the complexities. On-farm lighting will overcome a lot of transport issues as it is difficult to load stock in the dark.

Will be kept on the agenda.

Action: TasPorts will try to access funding for a facilitator of a brainstorming meeting of people who are part of the transportation chain, and to include this intention in a letter to Minister Ferguson.

3. Stevedoring

Furneaux Freight and TasPorts are happy with the way things are running at the Port and there are ongoing positive communications between both parties.

4. **Port Fees**

Darryl Clark addressed the question asked at the previous meeting:

'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?'

TasPorts is a state-owned entity, not a government entity, therefore not required to freeze fee increases. TasPorts has four commercial ports that make a profit. All other ports make a loss and are considered customer service ports. Lady Barron port is one such port. This has been a challenging year for everyone, with reduced volume through TasPorts' business due to COVID-19, resulting in a reduction in revenue. Old assets and capital have needed upgrading resulting in increased costs. TasPorts does its price adjustments in May in readiness for the financial year and uses Hobart CPI as a basis. For this year 3% was applied across the business, however if customers are experiencing hardship, individual concerns can be addressed.

5. **Safe Harbour Project**

TasPorts put forward a proposal to create a safe harbour facility at the Lady Barron Port area, thus addressing council's risks. However, the Community was not happy with the proposal, so Council is now back to the original concept, based on the \$3 million available for the project. The project will consist of as much as can be bought for the money. Council has been assured that further extension to the funding application will be granted. Council has recently undertaken a risk assessment on the project and is now full steam ahead to bring the \$3 million project to fruition.

6. **Animal Welfare Policy**

There has been a delay on this as there are many variables to consider.

Will be kept on the agenda.

7. **Cattle Balking at Loading Races**

Scott Wood and Nigel Brown spoke with Garth Smith about this issue straight after the August meeting and Garth committed to putting blinding in place, covering the areas the cattle were balking at with matting.

8. **Any Issues from Other Freight Business**

Nothing to report.

9. **TasPorts Topics**

TasPorts is actively encouraging closer relationships and happy to talk privately with farmers and business owners if requested. They would rather hear directly about issues that need to be dealt with and, in the process, they are getting some good ideas from people. They have changed their structure and now have a logistics manager to work with customers in a continuous improvement manner.

10. **Furneaux Freight Topics**

Darren Grace reported that the new boat is on track for sea trials in February or March. Current boat is being surveyed which means we will miss one boat this week. Furneaux Freight consulted the farmers before choosing the timing of the survey. The tides will be low and there's still plenty of grass for feed, so the farmers were not disadvantaged.

Unloading race at Bridport - new man gate installed, putting slider in end of the ramp.

Relationship with TasPorts is going smoothly and appreciate, with CEO, Anthony Donald, taking time to meet with Shannon regularly.

Action: Chair to write letter to Anthony to thank him for taking the time to meet regularly with Shannon.

Recommended that Councillors visit Furneaux Freight next year when the boat is getting closer to being ready to launch.

Deck configuration on new boat - suggestion to split a couple of the pens to use for bull transport. Suggestion will be taken on board.

Other Business

Terms of reference

Council approved new non-negotiable Terms of Reference for all Special Committees with a % of members as the quorum. This Committee needs to decide if the quorum is voting members only.

New Boat Design

Some design features of the new boat were discussed – there will be cameras on the boat; the pen design will be similar to the old boat; passenger access will be separated from freight and stock area with a gangplank direct to the wharf from the higher level; will carry 32 passengers with a passenger lounge; carry 70 more stock and a 5 hour sail.

Next Meeting: Wednesday early March 2021

Meeting closed: 11.26am