

## FURNEAUX SHIPPING COMMITTEE MEETING – UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

**DATE:** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
**VENUE:** Rose Garden Room, FAEC, Whitemark  
**COMMENCING:** 10.05am

**PRESENT:**

Mayor A Revie	Chair
Cr Vanessa Grace	Council
David Bellinger	Commerce Representative
Darren Grace	Furneaux Freight Representative
Mark Cooper	TasPorts Representative
Mark Pitchford	Transport Representative
Grant Hall	Farmer's Representative
Arun Kendall	Department of State Growth (via phone)

**GUESTS:**

Craig Bull	TasPorts King Island
------------	----------------------

**APOLOGIES:**

Chris Durrant	Elders
Russell Hunter	Biosecurity Tasmania Representative
Scott Wood	Livestock Representative
Warren Groves	General Manager
Michelle Hirschfield	Community Representative
Nigel Brown	Elders Livestock Agent
Cr Aaron Burke	Council
Denise Gardner	Cape Barren Island Representative
Mick Rose	FIBI Representative

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

Rowena Nicholls	Assistant Executive Officer (Minute Taker)
-----------------	--

**DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:**

Nil declared

**CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Moved: Vanessa Grace      Seconded: Mark Pitchford  
 That the minutes from the meeting held on 10 October 2020 are a true record.  
 CARRIED

**CORRESPONDENCE IN:**

Nil

**CORRESPONDENCE OUT:**

Stephen Casey, TasPorts  
 Anthony Donald, CEO, TasPorts  
 Mark Cooper, Manager North, TasPorts  
 Hon Michael Ferguson, Minister for Infrastructure, Tasmanian State Government  
 Premier Peter Gutwein, Tasmanian State Government  
 All of the above were letters of appreciation for their part in the provision of matting for the livestock pens at Lady Barron Port

## GENERAL BUSINESS

**1. Matting & Lighting:** Mark Cooper informed the committee of progress. Installation of matting by TasPorts is progressing, with some still to be laid. Feedback is positive so far. Grant Hall, on behalf of farmers, will liaise with stock agents, Scott Wood and Nigel Brown, to confirm that matting is working well to confirm this. It was noted by Grant Hall and Darren Grace, that it is impossible to attain 100% non-slippage re cattle but the overall improvement is good. Noted by Mark Cooper that completion of matting installation needs to be when cattle yards not being used. TasPorts hope to have it completed before wet weather begins. Noted that around May the cattle movements will decrease as is usual for that time of year.

Old matting will be offered to locals to reuse or else will be shipped back to mainland Tasmania for disposal. Grant Hall and David Bellinger expressed interest in some of the old matting.

Lighting modifications are complete. Quality of light survey has been done and provides over and above requirements as per Australian Standards. Still need to ensure it is suitable for a functional port area. Need to see how it goes in terms of muttonbirds, aiming to prevent as many deaths as possible. Lighting will be reduced as much as possible during the three weeks of mutton bird season to reduce deaths. TasPorts and Furneaux Freight are discussing where practical, reductions of night-time sailings during this time of year as TasPorts have an obligation to prevent wildlife deaths and injury.

Darren Grace spoke to Shannon today and her concern is that there is a big carry over of livestock and they need more sailings to catch up. However, night-time sailings can be managed by controlling lighting.

Scott Wood is aware of the issue regarding back load of stock and can liaise with farmers to ensure stock movements continue. David Bellinger mentioned he could off load cattle now if it helped reduce burden of stock movements later, during the three-week muttonbird period of potentially reduced sailings. Grant Hall to speak to Nigel and Scott and make them aware of potentially reduced night-time sailings during those three weeks around April. Grant can send email around to farmers to make them aware if necessary.

Chair, Annie Revie, mentioned refrigeration units had needed attention, General Manager Warren Groves contacted Premiers Department to address the issue and had a positive response the same day.

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

Mark has not progressed this but has made a note to look into it.

Mark Introduced Craig Bull, TasPorts operation Manager of King Island. Craig to fill Mark's role and will be present on the Island more. As Mark will be changing roles. Mark expressed that Craig is resourceful in getting what's required. Craig will oversee operations for both islands. Craig has also looked after fuel on Flinders Island for many years.

Craig to attend future Shipping meetings. Craig's mobile to be provided.

Vanessa Grace mentioned King Island has gas in ISO containers. Is this option for Flinders?

Mark Cooper – yes

Craig Bull - need unloading facility and bottling plant, potential facility cost \$220-\$230k, a large outlay which would then need to be recouped in terms of the capital cost of this.

**3. Stevedoring:** Mark Cooper update committee on this it is still the same

Qube still on site. Current system working so leave as is for now.

#### 4. Safe Harbour Project

This is a major project for Council

Warren Groves updated committee on progress to date

#### Shipping Committee Safe Harbour Update March 2021

- As a result of 'expressions of interest' and 'request for proposals' processes, Flinders Council has engaged Batchelors Construction Group (BCG) to participate in the early contractor involvement (ECI) stage one.
- Approval has been given for an extension of the funding submission date until June 2021.
- The ECI stage one process will complete the project designs, legislated planning requirements and other requirements to achieve the CDGP (Funding body) commitments to release funding and deliver the project. It is anticipated that the ECI stage one will be completed within six months.
- Flinders Council has applied for and now been allocated direct access to a representative of the Community Development Grants programme (CDGP). This has proven to be very beneficial in understanding the CDGP requirements, but also in allowing Council to present its own challenges to the CDGP with respect to timing commitments and financial management.
- Flinders Council has commenced the ECI stage one process with the Batchelor Construction Group (BCG). This has involved the identification of project risks and the development of a comprehensive risk register. Site visits have been undertaken (first week in January) and a plan developed with actions identified to assist in delivering the FIMASH project.
- Meetings have been conducted with key stakeholders Tasmanian Ports Corporation (TasPorts) and Maritime and Safety Tasmania (MAST) and Burbury Consulting.
- Council continues to work on legislated planning requirements including Reserve Activity Assessment (RAA) and Development Application (DA), and
- Further investigations have been conducted and continue into local rock resource (quality and cost) for the breakwater.

#### 5. Animal Welfare Policy

Mark Cooper updated Committee on progress. No change on this, but feedback from DWPIPE was received a month ago. There was some discussion regarding wash down facilities at the Port. Powranna was put forward as a good example with a functional set up, wash down facility and tank for dumping, which is now a user pays system, originally funded by Government estimated cost of \$2 million.

Flinders cannot continue with current situation forever and needs an appropriate future solution.

Note: Keep this issue on agenda to discuss each meeting.

Chair Annie expressed a thank you to farmers and Tasports for bringing animal welfare issues out in the open and working on them - they can be proud of their efforts.

#### 6. Any Issues from Other Freight Business

Mick Rose not in attendance

#### **7. TasPorts Topics**

Mark Cooper had nothing to report on current issues from TasPorts that may affect the Committee.

Craig needs time to work out how Flinders Island Port works. He encouraged Committee members to get in touch, if there are issues to be discussed.

Grant Hall thanked Mark Cooper for his role and stated how approachable and balanced in his viewpoint he has been. Vanessa Grace agreed.

#### **8. Furneaux Freight Topics**

Darren Grace provided an update to the Committee of related issues from Furneaux Freight. Shannon expressed ongoing issues with the hard stand in the working area of the Port. Pavers had been dug out in last few days, leaving a more unsafe pavement. Furneaux Freight not consulted, area has been filled with gravel and will become an issue when it rains. Mark acknowledged that improvement notices have been issued. TasPorts actioning notices asap. Could be something TasPorts cannot fix straight away.

Desire to move boat ramp over and move fence line and free up area to improve the functionality.

Shannon has invested in closed cap forklift

Training – Shannon has spoken to agency with regard to timing of training - cannot be done while boat is being loaded. Update on new boat, is being painted, and scheduled to be launched in late April.

#### **Other Business**

Bowmans Creek Bridge Bypass – Council waiting on engineer's report. No date yet for repairs to be carried out. Promised funds from Government to assist with repair.

Darren Grace to speak to Warren Groves regarding the detour issues raised at the meeting. Darren Grace to ring Grant Hall and Mark Pitchford with feedback from Warren.

#### **Next Meeting:**

**1pm June 2021**

**Meeting closed: 11.25 am**