



MINUTES OF THE INNER HARBOUR COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

Date: Tuesday 30 June 2020
Location: 1st floor, Fremantle Ports' Administration Building
Time: 5pm to 6.30pm
Chair: Dr Simon Avenell

Community representatives:

Cr Andrew Sullivan, City of Fremantle
Ron Kawalilak, Gibson Park Precinct
David Hawks, The Fremantle Society Inc.
Shirley Burbidge, Fremantle Volunteer Heritage Guides
Don Whittington, Fremantle Park Association,
David Earl, Fremantle Arts Centre Precinct
Eric Wilson, Port Beach Users Group and Polar Bears
Fiona Whittles, Notre Dame University
Rod Murray, South Fremantle Precinct
Ann Forma, North Fremantle Precinct
Dennis Cloughton, Flying Angel Club
Danicia Quinlan, Fremantle Chamber of Commerce
Maryrose Baker, Fremantle Inner City Residents' Association
Robert Potts, Beaconsfield Precinct
Ed Blackley, White Gum Valley Precinct

Fremantle Ports' representatives:

Captain David Heppingstone, Acting Harbour Master
Sean Craig, General Manager Business Strategy and Sustainability
Neil Stanbury, Manager Corporate and Community Relations
Jeanette Murray, External Affairs Coordinator
Jane Edwards, Community Engagement Specialist
Oscar Holligan, Stakeholder Engagement Officer

Apologies:

Chris Leatt-Hayter, Chief Executive Officer, Fremantle Ports
Drew Mazalevskis, Social Licence Officer, Fremantle Ports
Cr Tony Watkins, Town of East Fremantle
Carol Shannon, Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation
Cr Andrew McPhail, Town of East Fremantle
Jason Fair, Western Australian Maritime Museum
Gerard MacGill, North Fremantle Precinct

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INVITATION FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Simon Avenell welcomed all, announced apologies and called for additional agenda items. Minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated and were accepted.

Actions from previous meeting:

- Westport Taskforce to be invited to provide a speaker to the next IHCLG meeting. (To date, no announcement from Government so this action will be forwarded to the next meeting.)
- Information on the concrete segments left near the Port Beach store to be provided at the next meeting. Neil provided an update: The concrete segments were left over from works at Berth 4, North Quay. Fremantle Ports does not anticipate moving them but is laying baits for vermin control.

2. FRAUD CASE

Information provided by Neil Stanbury:

Members were briefed on the fraud case announced in a media conference by WA Police earlier in the day.

3. COVID-19 AND THE PORT

Information provided by Captain David Heppingstone:

Information provided on vessel/crew management. All ships must provide pre-arrival health and quarantine information that is checked by Australian authorities. Ships from overseas that have received clearance by the authorities can berth in the port. If ships or crew have been fewer than 14 days at sea, crew must follow biosecurity directions. All crew must remain on-board while the vessel is berthed in Australia. Crew are able to disembark to conduct essential vessel functions only and crew must wear personal protective equipment (PPE) while performing these functions. Crew should restrict their interaction with non-crew members to those interactions that are critical to the safe operation and loading/unloading of the vessel. Crew must also use PPE in public spaces on board the vessel while non-crew members are on-board. There is currently no shore leave for any crew. To ensure ongoing trade and supply of goods, international and interstate maritime crew change-outs are permitted and are being managed by the WA Health Department. Internationally, there are ships where crew have not been ashore for 12 months, a developing humanitarian issue. *Artania* and *Al Kuwait* situations were discussed. Neil Stanbury provided information on office arrangements that had taken place (working from home and use of Koolinda House at Rous Head), and discussed work done with the landside logistics industry to keep supply chains running.

David Heppingstone also provided information on:

- New port bunkering vessel: *Absolute 1* is the Port of Fremantle's newest bunkering vessel, having replaced *Vacamonte* on 21 April. Bunkering vessels refuel ships. *Absolute 1* can carry three grades of fuel and refuel ships at berth in Fremantle and Kwinana and at local anchorages like Gage Roads.
- ShoreTension mooring system: ShoreTension, developed by Netherlands company K.R.V.E. with the Port Authority of Rotterdam, is a shore-based flexible mooring system that puts mooring lines under constant tension. Reduces movement caused by strong wind, currents or passing vessels; two units are required per ship (bow and stern) and we have 12 units; has a 60-tonne pressure capability and provides a notification system; provides us with useful data, such as how much impact there is from suction and pressure waves from passing vessels.

4. TRADE UPDATE

Information provided by Neil Stanbury:

- Inner Harbour trade to the end of May 2020 compared to same time last year: 8,181,193 tonnes (down 261,361 tonnes or 3.1%).
- Total Container Trade to end of May 2020: 720,592 TEU – ↓ 0.6% or 4,629 TEU:
 - Full container trade down by 2.5% or 14,089 TEU compared to same period last year.
 - Full imports remain slightly higher than in the same period last year while full exports are down 7.8%, mainly due a decline in exports of wheat, scrap metals and wastepaper.
- Non-Containerised Inner Harbour Trade: 941,596 tonnes - ↓ 6.7% or 68,153 tonnes; the fall in non-containerised trade is mainly due to declines in scrap metal exports and imports of bulk bitumen, iron & steel products and new motor vehicles.
- June 2020: New motor vehicle imports have increased by 30% compared to May 2020, though still well below the average from July 2019. Imports of used vehicles from the east have also increased.
- Container trade for 2019-20 is expected to be only 1% down from 2018-19.
- Video shown on Freight on Rail at Fremantle Ports:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uctrUDRN4aU&t=8s>

5. WESTPORT

Information provided by Sean Craig:

The Westport Taskforce has presented its final report to the WA Government. It is expected that the Government will make an announcement on the report in coming months.

6. VICTORA QUAY

Information provided by Neil Stanbury:

- The Steering Group's report, finalised at the end of 2019, identified opportunities for improvements in the near term. The report is with the Minister for Ports.
- Fremantle Ports reduced parking fees at Victoria Quay from 28 April to assist the community during the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. \$2.50 for an hour reduced to \$1.50; all-day parking fee \$10 reduced to \$5).

7. COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Information provided by Neil Stanbury:

- Coogee Live support: Fremantle Ports proudly supported an engaging art activity at Coogee Live that shone a light on child and adolescent mental health. Well-known artist Kevin Bynder worked with festivalgoers to paint a dolphin sculpture over the festival weekend (7 and 8 March). Fremantle Ports has donated the painted dolphin to Hillman Primary School, in Kwinana.
- Fremantle Camera Club support: Fremantle Ports contributed \$3,000 towards much-needed equipment: a new computer and projector system will support the Club's education presentations.
- Doorstep Dinners: Fremantle Ports committed \$10,000 to St Patrick's Community Support Centre's 'Doorstep Dinners' pilot program, designed to support the food relief emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic; boosts Fremantle's hospitality sector; helps vulnerable people.
- Freo Street Doctor: Staff donated toiletries to assist vulnerable people.
- Employees are supporting two charities through payroll donations in 2020-21:
 - Fremantle Foundation's new WA COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund
 - Native ARC (Animal Rehabilitation Centre).
- Paint the Port Community Day 14 March was cancelled due to COVID-19 but judging still occurred and prizes were awarded.

- Port Walk on 7 March was fully booked but had to be cancelled because of COVID-19.
- Sound & Waves concert 25 March, Perth Symphony Orchestra, B Shed: Cancelled due to COVID-19 but we hope to hold it another time. The concert was being supported by Fremantle Ports.

Friends of Fremantle Ports (information provided by Jane Edwards):

- New volunteering program starting September 2020; presents a unique opportunity to bring together skilled individuals; attracts those who have time, skills and expertise so that we can provide more services to our community; allows those retired from the maritime industry to continue to play an active role and gives young people opportunities to develop skills and knowledge for future employment.
- Proposed activities: 'Port Walks': expanding the program to include different areas of focus including port operations, port history, environment, logistics, indigenous; supporting corporate and community events such as Maritime Day; assisting with community-oriented lectures and presentations; practical support with environmental programs; assisting with special projects such as curating and history and photography preservation
- Timeline: August 2020 – Expressions of Interest; September 2020 – Training program; October 2020 – Friends of Fremantle Ports launched.
- Red Imported Fire Ants: A new round of surveillance for the red imported fire ant (RIFA) eradication program is now underway in Fremantle. The invasive pest was found by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development in November 2019 on two adjoining tenanted properties at Fremantle Port.

8. INCIDENTS AND COMPLAINTS

Neil Stanbury reported upon significant complaints and incidents received in the past quarter:

Eight complaints received during the past three months:

25/5/20: Complaint received regarding noise from cranes on the container berths.

Response: It was found that an uncommon northerly wind arising from a storm was likely to have increased the port noise in relation to Queen Victoria St. The noise was most likely to have come from the livestock vessel *Anna Marra* but the measurement was below the level acceptable for that ship.

27/5/20: The complainant was opposed to the vessel *Al Kuwait* being allowed into Fremantle Harbour, because it might spread COVID-19 to the community. Response: It was explained that the Health Department had requested it dock for safety and crew welfare reasons, under a State Emergency directive. Fremantle Ports did not make this decision. The crew were not permitted to leave the ship during the time it was in port, unless under direction by the Health Department.

29/5/20: The complainant resident in Elder Place, East Fremantle, rang about a high-speed oscillating noise from a livestock ship laid up at the passenger terminal (*Al Kuwait*).

Response: He was advised that Fremantle Ports was following orders from the Health Department. A noise assessment was carried out by our environmental officers.

29/5/20: A resident of Beach Street near the sailing club complained of noise from the 5am freight train. This person said they were not unhappy with freight trains but wanted to know if the early train could leave later, particularly in winter. Response: Discussed with our Logistics Branch and raised with the Freight and Logistics Council of WA, to be brought up at the next rail working group.

2/6/20: A local crayfisher complained that a ship had run over five of his cray pots off the coast. Response: The Harbour Master has pursued this with the ship's agent to recover costs. The complainant thanked Fremantle Ports for its follow-through.

20/6/20: The complainant found parking instructions on Victoria Quay hard to follow and felt it wasn't clear there was a minimum payment amount required. Response: Fremantle Ports owns the land but contracts Wilson to manage parking. We have followed this matter up with Wilson and are talking to them about making parking signage much clearer. That is part of a work program for later this year. The minimum parking cost is \$1.50 for up to an hour's parking. Parking fees were reduced on Victoria Quay during COVID-19.

5/6/20: Noise from a ship; a pumping-type sound was described. Our Environmental Branch has submitted the information to DWER and will follow this matter up further. Not resolved at this time.

6/6/20: Engine noise from a ship. The complainant lives in East Fremantle. Response: Our Environmental Branch believed at first it was noise from Water Corporation dewatering on Victoria Quay, but this was found not to be the source. Vessels in port at the time were identified and will be subjected to noise testing when they return to Fremantle.

INCIDENTS

7/6/20: A pilot boat picking up a pilot from the ship *Mount Adams* came within 50m of a kayaker with no lights at 2.20am north of the northern leadlight in the Parmelia channel, north-bound. The paddler was heading east at the time. The pilot boat crew checked to see that he was ok and if he needed assistance. He said he did not and continued on.

16/5/20: The car carrier *Tiger* was leaving at 1520hrs and VTSO observed a stand-up paddler paddling out past C and B Berths toward the harbour entrance, apparently unaware of the approaching ship. VTSO called out a pilot boat, which shepherded the paddler into the Maritime Museum the with departing ship just 200m astern.

#flashbackfriday posts on Fremantle Ports' Facebook page: Every Friday, archivist Alan Pearce provides a number of photos and information about an event or arriving ship that occurred in past decades. The posts are very popular.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Ann Forma said the Swan River foreshore in North Fremantle was under severe pressure from storm surges and asked if Fremantle Ports would consider installing some form of storm surge barricading in the river.
- Ann Forma and Andrew Sullivan said there was a need for Main Roads WA to start public consultation on plans for the Fremantle Traffic Bridge replacement project. Danicia Quinlan also said she had asked MRWA for a briefing.

Meeting closed at 6.30pm

Actions:

- Westport Taskforce to be invited to provide a speaker to the next IHCLG meeting.
- Main Roads WA to be invited to next meeting to provide information on the Fremantle Traffic Bridge project.