



MINUTES OF THE INNER HARBOUR COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

Date: 14 March 2017
Location: Boardroom, Fremantle Ports Administration Building
Time: 5pm to 6.30pm
Chairperson Dr Simon Avenell

Community representatives:

Carol Shannon, Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation
Maryrose Baker, Fremantle Inner City Residents' Association (FICRA)
Ron Kawalilak, Gibson Park Precinct
Rod Murray, South Fremantle Precinct
Cr Andrew McPhail, Town of East Fremantle
Don Whittington, Fremantle Park Association
Robert Potts, Beaconsfield Precinct
Ron Davidson, Fremantle History Society
Eric Wilson, Port Beach Users Group and Polar Bears
David Hawks, The Fremantle Society
Olwyn Williams, Fremantle Chamber of Commerce
Mary Chila, White Gum Valley Precinct
Michelle Reynolds, Rottnest Island Authority

Guest presenter
Dr Belinda Cannell

Fremantle Ports' representatives

Chris Leatt-Hayter, Chief Executive Officer
Gino Valenti, General Manager Strategy and Planning
Ainslie de Vos, Manager External Affairs
Jeanette Murray, External Affairs Coordinator
Helen Elliott, Community Relations Coordinator

Apologies

Gerry MacGill, North Fremantle Precinct
Ann Forma, North Fremantle Precinct
Gill Harrison, Western Australian Maritime Museum
Cr Jenny Harrington, Town of East Fremantle
Cr Jon Strachan, City of Fremantle
Des Snook, Main Roads WA
David Earl, Fremantle Arts Centre Precinct

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INVITATION FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Dr Avenell welcomed all and especially Michelle Reynolds, Acting CEO of Rottneest Island Authority, to her first meeting. He announced apologies and called for additional agenda items. Minutes of the previous meeting on 7 December 2016 had been circulated and were accepted.

Additional agenda items:

- Port parking
- Inner city residents and railway line
- Victoria Quay development update.

2. LITTLE PENGUINS PRESENTATION

Information provided by Dr Belinda Cannell, Research Associate, Murdoch University; Research Fellow, UWA. Dr Cannell has been researching the ecology of Little Penguins in WA for more than 20 years. Belinda first received some funding from Fremantle Ports in 2006. More recently, she has been investigating the resilience of penguins near the Perth metropolitan area (Penguin and Garden islands) to climate change and coastal development. This research has been supported by Fremantle Ports, the City of Rockingham and the Australian Geographic Society.

- Higher sea temperatures have adversely affected breeding rates of Little Penguins on Penguin Island. Local penguins are also having to spend more time foraging for food (bait fish) when incubating eggs compared to penguins at other colonies around Australia and New Zealand.
- Satellite tags attached to Penguin Island penguins incubating eggs in 2015 revealed their home range extended from near Rottneest to Geographe Bay, adjacent to Quindalup, an area of 3088 square kilometres.
- The project followed well above average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in 2011 and 2012, and greater than average SSTs in 2013. The SSTs in 2015 were warmer than the long-term average from January to May, August, October and November, and the penguin breeding success was lower than the long-term average.
- Threats to penguins include recreation boats/jetskis, plastic/fishing line, heat exhaustion.

Discussion: Questions were about whether a new Outer Harbour port would impact on penguins (answer: no, penguins can get out of the way of slow-moving large ships; recreational boats/jetskis are hazardous to penguins); and what we can do to help (answer: slow down in a recreational boat; address climate change, reduce tourism at Penguin Island and move nesting boxes to cooler places).

Dr Cannell's final-year report of the three-year project researching the resilience of Little Penguins and the coastal marine habitats they use is on Fremantle Ports' website [here](#), along with her 'penguin blog'.

3. PORT UPDATE

Information provided by Chris Leatt-Hayter:

Trade is still subdued; total port trade is down 2%; vehicles trade is down. Fremantle Ports is waiting on information from the new State Government about the port sale and other matters. Fremantle Ports has been looking at new initiatives for Victoria Quay: what could be done to support the cruise ship industry, and how the west end of VQ could be upgraded and integrated better with the Fremantle CBD.

Discussion: Olwyn Williams said, in considering investment in new cruise facilities, economic consideration should be given to the fact that many cruise ships were making turnaround

(complete passenger exchange) rather than transit visits, resulting in fewer passengers visiting the Fremantle CBD. Ron Davidson said many people had realised in the past six months that the port was more than just a port, but had entertainment and heritage values.

4. COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION AND CRUISE UPDATE

Information provided by Ainslie de Vos:

- Cruise season 2016-17:
 - 60 cruise ship visits
 - Debut calls coming up: *Artania* (21-22 March) and *Sirena* (27 March)
 - New lights for Howard Taylor artworks in Fremantle Passenger Terminal (in addition to \$2 million spent at the terminal in recent years).
- Naval ships (Australian, NZ, Spanish and Italian) have been visiting port before and after Exercise Ocean Explorer 10-13 March. Italian naval ship *Carabiniere* was open to the public on Australia Day.
- Fairy terns returned to Rous Head nesting sanctuary for third nesting season this summer: Numbers doubled in second season and are expected to have increased in third season; for second year chicks were banded; Fremantle Ports is also providing funding to the Conservation Council of WA to establish a South-West fairy tern conservation network (citizen-science social media platform); Rous Head banded birds have been spotted at Rottneest and Woodman Point.
- Support provided for Coogee Jetty to Jetty Swim (12 March 2017) and Fremantle Ports Swim Thru at South Beach (10 December 2016); money raised at the Swim Thru is providing \$3,500 each to the Freo Street Doctor and St Patrick's Community Support Centre.
- Support for Castaways Sculpture Awards, Rockingham in late 2016; Fremantle Ports Award given to *Cansumerism* by Hayley Bahr and Tim Keevil, made of recycled cans and housing a printmaking studio.
- Workplace giving and volunteering: Employees packed and donated Christmas hampers for St Patrick's Community Support Centre. Many employees are also donating to Wanslea Family Services and the Shenton Park Dogs' Refuge Home through payroll deductions. Further volunteering opportunities are organised for employees this year.
- Recent education visits have included Girrawheen Senior High School Year 10 VET students.
- Susanna Castleden *Gangway* artwork: Fremantle Ports provided Susanna with access to a cruise ship gangway at the Fremantle Passenger Terminal to do a full-scale rubbing. The gangway print, more than 15 metres long and three metres high, is part of the *SPAN* exhibition, presented by the Perth International Arts Festival and Fremantle Arts Centre (on until 26 March).
- Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Schools Inclusion and Access Program: Fremantle Ports has provided funds (matched with Federal funding) for eight primary schools (3 classes each) to attend performances; four schools attended performances last year and Newton PS, Coolbellup Community School, Phoenix PS and Hamilton Hill PS will attend performances of *Hachiko* or *The Arrival* this year.
- A small amount of soil collected from the garden at the eastern side of E Shed will be included in a new memorial garden at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. The Flanders Fields Memorial Garden will commemorate the sacrifice of Australians in the defence of Belgium in World War I and will officially open in Canberra later this year.
- Fremantle Ports was awarded the Gold Award for the third year for the best annual report 2015-16 in the Government trading enterprise sector category of the [WS Lonnie Awards](#) held on 2 March. The awards were held by the Institute of Public Administration Australia WA to recognised excellence and accountability in annual reporting in the WA public sector. Fremantle Ports was also awarded the Margaret Nadebaum Trophy for the best Government trading enterprise annual report.

- Safety initiative: Fremantle Ports has initiated and paid for 'No Parking' signs on a median strip on Port Beach Road after a truck driver reported an incident where a child almost stepped out onto the road and in front of his truck after alighting from a car parked on the median strip.

5. LOSS MANAGEMENT

Communication of significant incidents, complaints and improvements relating to Inner Harbour operations, and that may be of interest to Community Liaison Group members. Information provided by Gino Valenti for the period December 2016 - February 2017:

- Incident 23/1/17: Security Centre received phone call on emergency line about hydraulic oil spill on Berth 11 Inner Harbour. A bung had been removed from the hydraulic oil tank on a reach stacker while loading onto trailer. Response: Fremantle Ports' patrol officer attended site and observed that stevedores had contained the spill with kitty litter around the perimeter and used absorbent material over drain hole and to plug the seal. The entire hydraulic tank had been drained; est. at 100 litres. Inspection under wharf found no evidence oil had entered the harbour. Tox-Free arrived on site at 12:30pm to clean site. Team leader and Operations Manager notified of situation.
- Incident 13 January 2017: A small tipper truck loaded with 3 x IBCs of bitumen emulsion turned left into North Mole Drive and rolled over due to the IBCs shifting. The IBCs were not 'dogged down' on the tipper and were loaded on top of a quantity of road base. Response: Fremantle Ports' Traffic Management Officer (TMO) attended site and put a traffic management plan in place until police attended. The TMO obtained an MSDS from cargo owner and arranged for sand to be sourced from the Fremantle Ports maintenance yard to assist with clean up. Another port operator provided a forklift to assist in 'righting' and re-loading the IBC's on the tipper. TMO monitored clean up operation.
- Incident 13 January 2017: At about 0555 hrs when a crane for the passenger ship was setting up, a Fremantle Ports officer noticed some suspicious packages on the fendering. The packages were about 8cm x 5cm x 3cm wrapped in brown paper plus sticky tape around them. Response: Manager Port Operations and police notified. An exclusion zone was put in place around the packages and the area evacuated. Police and Customs officers attended and identified the 'packages' as packing blocks for cargo from the last ship at this berth.
- Complaints 10 & 31 January 2017: Two complaints received from Port Beach users in relation to rocks washing up on the beach. Response: Port Environmental Advisor accompanied City of Fremantle officer to inspect site and confirmed rocks are predominantly well-weathered, small limestone and cobbles with the occasional brick, bitumen and glass material. Beach erosion has been particularly severe at local beaches this summer and this has seen a repeat of this event that has occurred intermittently in previous years. City of Fremantle is considering whether anything practical can/should be done in the short term. For the longer term a coastal hazard risk management and adaptation planning project in the primary sediment cell stretching from Port Beach to Cottesloe is under way. The project is well advertised for community involvement with signs at Port Beach. The project is seeking to determine the vulnerability of assets including Port Beach to inundation and erosion and then a risk analysis will be undertaken to guide management and adaptation in areas of highest priority.

Discussion: Ainslie de Vos provided additional information on the issue: The material that appears on Port Beach from time to time is not from the demolished gain silos. The demolition material from the silos was not deposited in the sea but instead placed on land at Rous Head. The issue of limestone rocks and other weathered material appearing at the southern end of Port Beach is an historical one, with the rocks turning up some years (for example, between 2001-02) but not others, depending on seasonal conditions and sand movements. In some years, sand is depleted and rocks exposed. Tamala limestone (determined through previous analysis to comprise about 80 per cent of material) occurs

naturally in the seabed offshore and in the general vicinity. Anecdotal evidence of the variety of other materials that turn up from time to time on the beach suggests that some unauthorised dumping of building materials from the greater Fremantle area may have occurred in this area many years ago. Fremantle Ports had divers in the area in 2002 and they confirmed the material was not coming from the seawall. Eric Wilson (from Port Beach Users Group and Polar Bears) said that while there were occasional Port Beach users who were very unhappy and a few regular Port Beach users who were unhappy in the main, the long-time regulars regular beach users accepted the situation for what it was.

- Complaints 6 & 7 Dec 2016 and 7 & 16 Jan 2017: Four complaints received in relation to the Fremantle Passenger Terminal: two relating to the general standard of the facilities, one in relation to restrictions on access (proximity to vessel from balcony) and another concerning the absence of flags on the flag poles. Response: While Fremantle Ports has spent more than \$2 million in recent years upgrading the passenger terminal, opportunities for further upgrades and the ability to provide better connections to the City are currently being considered. The issue of access to vessels is governed by security requirements that can vary according to the vessel and its operators.
- Complaint 20 February 2017: South Fremantle resident lodged complaint in relation to train noise. Claimed that there had been a recent increase in level of noise. Response: Advised complainant that freight rail operators and a number of State Government agencies are working together to find the best approach to addressing rail noise issues within the Perth metropolitan freight network. Work led by the Freight and Logistics Council of Western Australia is targeting locations where noise is an issue at times for people living close to rail operations. Information gathering in the first part of the project has focused on identifying rail noise hot spots and we have ensured that the group is aware that South Fremantle should be included as one of these areas. A Reduction of Freight Rail Noise Steering Committee has been established and is responsible for progressing various operational measures to reduce freight rail noise at source.

6. INNER HARBOUR WORKS UPDATE

Information provided by Gino Valenti:

- Fremantle Rail Bridge Protection: An underwater rock mound (about 50m x 20m) will be built to protect the Fremantle Rail Bridge from vessel collisions. Pier 6 and 7 only require protection as Wangara Shoal prevents large port vessels from traveling towards bridge. PTA has installed dolphin structures to protect the remaining piers from ferry/recreational vessel collisions. Two vessel collisions occurred (*Parmelia 1* barge in May 2011 and *AAL Fremantle* in August 2014). Risk reduction measures to date have included: installation of ShoreTension units and additional storm bollards and improved early weather warnings/communication with tugs and PTA. Proposed program: award construction contract mid-April, commence construction activities on site mid-May, complete construction activities end of August.
- Paint shed removed: A 1979-80 paint shed originally used for sandblasting and painting and near the entrance to South Mole was recently removed; South Mole was closed for two weeks.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Port parking: Rod Murray said he had received a parking infringement after parking machines were not working near the WA Maritime Museum on 1 March. He had left a sign on his car explaining why he didn't have a parking ticket. He said he contacted Wilson Parking but the person he spoke to was defensive. Jeanette Murray said a number of complaints had been received around that time; Wilson Parking had been contacted and its contractors would be undertaking comprehensive servicing of all parking machines on Victoria Quay. (Update 15/3/17: Rod's parking infringement has

been waived.)

- Inner city residents and railway line: Maryrose Baker said residents at the Samson Bond apartments had complained that the PTA had cut down trees they had planted along the fence and moved the fence closer to the apartments. Maryrose asked Fremantle Ports to provide details for a PTA contact. **Action:** Ainslie de Vos to provide Rob Harrison at the apartments with details about a contact person in the PTA.
- Victoria Quay development update: Covered in Item 3 (Port Update).

Conclusion: Meeting concluded at 6.30pm.

Next meeting: 5pm Tuesday 13 June 2017, Fremantle Ports Administration Building