



PORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE - BUNBURY
WEDNESDAY 6TH AUGUST 2025

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT	Graham Winter Paul MacGillivray Todd Brown Tresslyn Smith	Lee Smith (RM) Robyn Fenech (Director) Shannon Beal (Community Relations & Partnerships Manager) Carol McKenzie (Committee Secretary)
APOLOGIES	Julie Knipping Paul D'Vorak	Keith Wilks (CEO)

The Chair opened the meeting at 5:05pm, welcomed everyone to the meeting and Acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land.

1. Declarations of Interest

No declarations.

2. Minutes of the Previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous Committee meeting held on 12th June 2025 were noted as approved via circular resolution on 4th August 2025. The circular resolution was affirmed by the Committee.

3. Action Items from Previous Minutes

Item 8 – The link to the Bunbury Dredging – Long Term Monitoring and Management Plan was sent to the Committee on 27th June 2025.

Item10.1 – The updated Charter is currently sitting with the CEO.

Item 10.3 – Advertising for new members is ongoing.

4. Corporate Update

The RM gave the following update on behalf of the CEO:

Trade Snapshot FY25

A total trade volume of 30.18 million tonnes was handled across the organisation, encompassing more than forty commodities and involving over fifty trading customers. This activity resulted in thirteen trade records being set across the three ports.

Total exports reached 27.22 million tonnes, primarily consisting of alumina, grain, and iron ore.

Total imports amounted to 2.96 million tonnes, comprising caustic soda, fertiliser, and fuel.

Trade Profile – Port of Bunbury

The Port of Bunbury recorded seventeen million tonnes of trade, welcomed 432 vessel visits, and proudly secured five of the organisation's thirteen trade records.

These records included three exported commodities—spodumene, silica sand, and scrap metal—and two imported commodities—caustic soda and breakbulk cargo.

Of the total trade, fifteen million tonnes were exports, and two million tonnes were imports. Bunbury's trade catchment is extensive, with products transported from locations such as the Coogaroo Mine (170 km north of Perth), Mt Holland Mine (485 km east of Bunbury), and the Diamond Mill in Manjimup (130 km south of Bunbury).

It is also noteworthy that the majority of commodities exported through Bunbury are destined for the United Arab Emirates region.

Capital Investment

Earlier this year, Southern Ports was proud to achieve full ISO 55001:2014 accreditation for our integrated asset management system, affirming our position as a leader in asset management. This certification not only reflects our commitment to excellence but also strengthens our ability to secure funding for critical infrastructure projects.

As a result, we are currently progressing several asset upgrades, remediation works, and major capital projects. Among the most significant are the Berth 8 Upgrade and the Turkey Point Road and Bridge Project.

The Berth 8 Upgrade encompasses a wide range of improvements, including completion of the second stage of the fire ring main upgrades, substation fire protection, renewal of the sheave beam, conveyor energy chain, speed increases, and dust capture improvements. Additional works underway include sill beam repairs, conveyor widening, installation of guarding and cladding, cathodic protection upgrades, and electrical realignment.

The Turkey Point Road and Bridge Project is the largest project ever undertaken by Southern Ports, with an investment of up to \$34 million. Construction is nearing completion, and we anticipate opening the new road to the public in early September. This new infrastructure will provide a dedicated public access route to Turkey Point, addressing safety concerns due to the significant increase in heavy vehicle traffic within the port. Once open, public access through the port to Turkey Point will be permanently closed.

Delivering upon our Strategic Direction

We are collaborating with our customers to reshape the operating model for Berth 8 with the goal of improving infrastructure efficiency. As a multi-user berth handling a variety of commodities, Berth 8 is nearing full utilisation.

There is potential to achieve efficiency gains within the existing infrastructure, delivering benefits to all users. Short-term improvements can be implemented concurrently with longer-term capital works and will guide decisions on whether to invest capital to further optimise Berth 8 or pursue the development of new infrastructure.

5. Port Update

The Regional Manager gave the following update: -

In relation to the biannual dredging operations conducted by Southern Ports, a member of the community recently contacted the organisation to express concerns that the activity may be having a negative impact on local seagrass. These concerns were also raised with the media, resulting in a newspaper article and an interview aired by the local news.

Southern Ports undertakes extensive water quality monitoring and works collaboratively with key environmental stakeholders, including the Leschenault Catchment Council and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER). According to DWER, the observed changes to seagrass may be linked to rising water temperatures in the rivers and estuary, rather than dredging activity.

A five-day shutdown is currently underway at Berth 8 to allow for scheduled maintenance works. Southern Ports conducts four planned maintenance shutdowns at Berth 8 each year to ensure safe and efficient operations.

In a recent initiative to improve community engagement and awareness, Southern Ports has installed several information signs at key locations around Bunbury. Each sign features a QR code that directs users to further information about port operations.

Additionally, the Regional Manager recently participated in a radio interview, highlighting the record-breaking trade achievements at the Port of Bunbury.

Southern Ports has received trial notification approval from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) for the trial loading of alumina hydrate at Berth 5. The current trial for the loading of washed silica sands is scheduled to conclude in December 2025.

The Q2, 2025 report on ambient air quality monitoring has been submitted to DWER, in line with our ongoing environmental compliance commitments.

In preparation for the 2025 Fairy Tern breeding season, Southern Ports is actively working to enhance protections and secure the designated breeding area to support the conservation of this important species.

After 17 years of dedicated service with Southern Ports first as a pilot and later as Harbour Master Les Turner has retired. We extend our sincere thanks to Les for his valuable contributions over the years. Lloyd Bailey, who has been with Southern Ports for approximately ten years, has now stepped into the role of Harbour Master. We congratulate Lloyd on his appointment and look forward to his continued leadership.

On 25 June 2025, the Port hosted a barbecue lunch to celebrate the Day of the Seafarer, an event aimed at raising awareness of the vital role seafarers play in our industry, as well as the challenges they often face. While no seafarers were available to attend on the day, the Regional Manager extends appreciation to everyone who participated and supported the event.

6. Corporate Affairs

The Community Relations and Partnerships Manager gave the following update:

Steve Lewis Regional Scholarship

Thomas Hage has been selected as the 2025 scholarship recipient of the Steve Lewis Regional Scholarship which is in its second year.

Thomas has relocated to Perth from Margaret River where he is in his first year of a Bachelor of Engineering at Curtin University.

Industry Engagement

Southern Ports, in partnership with the City of Bunbury and the South West Development Commission, has installed seven information signs along the waterfront. Each sign features a QR code linking to real-time shipping information. The initiative has been well received, with strong positive feedback from the community.

To mark the Day of the Seafarer, lunchtime barbecues were held at each of our ports, with the Marine Team and Mission to Seafarers also delivering care packs to incoming crews throughout the week. Southern Ports supported the occasion by increasing awareness of the vital role seafarers play in global trade through both traditional and social media platforms.

Community Engagement

The Southern Ports team attended the Bunbury STEM Showcase, engaging with primary school students to promote the wide range of career opportunities available within the organisation.

Southern Ports also sponsored and participated in this year's Shanty Festival, enjoying strong and positive engagement with the South West community.

As part of efforts to activate our new brand and strategy within the community, Southern Ports launched a Curiosity Quest in June. The initiative invited community members to answer ten questions about Southern Ports and share what sparks their curiosity about our operations. The most common areas of interest included what we export, shipping activity, and the Community Investment Program.

Staff engagement

Southern Ports held its annual cultural walks across all four regions in late June and early July, led by local Traditional Custodians. In Bunbury, the team participated in an Estuary Walkabout Tour guided by Noongar artist and cultural guide Troy Bennell, providing a valuable opportunity to deepen cultural understanding and connection to Country.

As part of our corporate sponsorship with Foodbank, Southern Ports has launched an annual staff volunteering day. On Friday 25 July, four team members from Bunbury joined the Foodbank team to help pack food hampers for those in need, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to supporting the wider community.

Community Investment Program

The 2024–25 South West funding round saw a total of \$101,354 invested across thirty-six community groups, reaching an estimated 180,000 people throughout the region.

In Round 3 for Bunbury, sixteen recipients shared a total of \$45,117 in funding. Among the many worthy initiatives, a standout project was supported through a grant to Friends of the Busselton Cultural Precinct Inc. for their "Seven Feet of Perfection – A Piano for Busselton" initiative.

Media: 1st May 2025 – 1st August 2025

Media coverage during this period has showcased several key developments across Southern Ports, including:

- Inclusion of funding for ongoing improvements and projects in the State Budget
- Highlights from the Community Investment Program
- The launch of the Curiosity Quest
- Celebrations for the Day of the Seafarer
- The Steve Lewis Regional Scholarship
- Achievement of thirteen trade records across the Southern Ports network

Bunbury-specific coverage featured:

- Gold Valley's expansion to export iron concentrate through the Port of Bunbury
- A call for new PCCC members to support community engagement
- Focus on CIP funding for Friends of the Busselton Cultural Precinct
- A local story featuring Marley the Dingo
- Concerns raised by a citizen scientist regarding the potential impact of dredging on the Leschenault Estuary

Upcoming...

Turkey Point Road and Bridge Opening

The official opening of the Turkey Point Road and Bridge is scheduled for late August. As part of this milestone, a bridge naming and behaviour change campaign will also be launched to support safe and responsible use of the new infrastructure.

Showcasing Our Operations

Southern Ports will be in the spotlight for its achievements in asset management, digital transformation, and safety initiatives at the upcoming:

- Public Works Conference – August
- Ports Australia Biz Ops – September

These events provide a valuable platform to highlight the organisation's operational excellence and innovation.

Other Upcoming Activities

- The next round of Community Investment Program grants will be awarded in the coming weeks
- Southern Ports is supporting the Regional Director's Award at the Australian Institute of Company Directors Awards in August
- The 2024–25 Annual Report is scheduled for publication in September
- Southern Ports will participate in the Talison Mine Open Day in September

7. Community Feedback

A Committee Member raised concerns regarding the condition of the road to Turkey Point, noting that where the newly bituminised section ends, the road transitions to gravel, which is in very poor condition. With increased traffic expected, the member expressed concern that the road will deteriorate further. The Regional Manager acknowledged the issue and advised that this section of road falls under the jurisdiction of the City of Bunbury, which is responsible for its maintenance. The City of Bunbury representative confirmed that there is currently no budget allocated for that area, as it was not included in budget planning undertaken several years ago.

A Committee Member involved in the Community Investment Program shared that the current round has received a record number of applications, indicating that the advertising campaign across various platforms has been highly effective in raising awareness.

The Chair spoke about his ongoing efforts to advocate for sustainable funding for seafarer welfare, suggesting a potential levy on companies using port facilities. While these efforts have so far gained limited traction, the Chair has been invited to attend an upcoming meeting of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) Board in Fremantle, where he hopes to further promote this initiative. He highlighted that organisations such as Mission to Seafarers and Stella Maris are experiencing significant funding challenges as they strive to meet the needs of seafarers.

The Chair also noted the success of a similar levy system trialled in New Zealand, which has since been legislated under the Maritime Transport Act. Funds collected are pooled into a central account, and organisations in need of support can submit applications for funding.

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 6:00 pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, 12th November 2025

VENUE:

Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre

ACTION ITEM LIST
FROM MINUTES OF PORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE - BUNBURY
6th AUGUST 2025

ITEM NO	ACTION	DATE AROSE	ACTION BY	STATUS
10.1	Updated Charter to be sent to the Committee	07/08/2024	C McKenzie	Sitting with CEO – 12.06.2025
10.3	Continue to advertise for new members	07/08/2024	Comms Team	Advertising to continues