



PORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE - BUNBURY
THURSDAY 12TH JUNE 2025

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT	Graham Winter Julie Knipping Paul D'Vorak Paul MacGillivray Todd Brown Tresslyn Smith	Keith Wilks (CEO) Alana Monaghan (Corporate Affairs Mgr.) Lee Smith (RM) Carol McKenzie (Committee Secretary)
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APOLOGIES Shannon Beal (Corporate Affairs) Robyn Fenech (Director)

The Chair opened the meeting at 5:01pm, 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 5th February 2025 were noted as approved via circular resolution on 7th March 2025. The circular resolution was affirmed by the Committee.

3. Action Items from Previous Minutes

Item 10.1 – The Charter review feedback is currently with the CEO who will finalise the review and re-issue the Charter to the Committees.

Item 10.3 – Advertising for new members is ongoing. We have received a couple of applications.

4. Corporate Update

The CEO gave the following update:

A few years ago, we introduced the Southern Ports Strategy 2022–2027, which was an internal-facing business strategy.

With this strategy now concluded, Southern Ports has recently launched a new, more outward-facing strategic direction (along with new values, branding and positioning) to reflect our forward-looking approach.

Our vision of '*strong regional ports, strong regions*' continues unchanged, encompassing our three ports, each with their own proud histories.

Our new Strategic Direction has four main pillars:

1. Proactive trade facilitation – working collaboratively with customers and partners:

- Flexible Capacity – to support current and new trade and growth of our assets.
- Customer Focus – a responsive and balanced approach to facilitate trade.
- Trade Enablement – actively seeking new trade opportunities beyond our current footprint.

2. High performance organisation – building on an agile, future-focused culture:

- Safety and Wellbeing – cultivating mutual care and respect prioritising the safety and wellbeing of our people.
- Workforce Empowerment – ensuring our workforce is equipped with the knowledge, skills, and mindset to thrive.
- Value-Adding Excellence – optimising our operations and services, implementing efficient systems and processes.

3. Enduring value – for our communities and positively impacting our regions:

- Enriched Regions – developing the economic capacity and resilience of our communities by facilitating trade, employment, and business opportunities.
- Trusted Community Partner – striving to be a valued, trusted community partner through social investment, reconciliation, and development.
- Custodianship – safeguarding the health of our assets, maximising their lifecycle, and preserving their value for future generations.

4. Connection and future focus:

- Technology-enabled Ports – transformation through efficient technology, leveraging near real-time data in decision-making.
- Solutions-Focused – anticipating the evolving needs of our customers and communities, delivering innovative solutions supported by advanced technologies.
- Energy Transition – playing our role in the global clean energy trade, adopting leading sustainable technologies and practices within our operations.

Bunbury Port Optimisation Plan

The CEO provided an overview of the future planning for the Port of Bunbury and the Bunbury Port Optimisation Plan (BPOP), noting it:

- provides a more granular port development plan than the Port of Bunbury Master Plan
- outlines the infrastructure to facilitate new trade volumes over the next 50 years
- considers existing bulk trade volumes, projections, energy transition cargo and potential new trade
- recognises and responds to the growing bulk trade demand – including step changes in bulk trade volumes and growing demand from the transition to clean energy
- considers diversification and supply chain resilience – with Bunbury offering a realistic alternative pathway to market outside of the metropolitan area; ensuring we have fit-for-purpose infrastructure and the capacity to support regional growth
- can be staged to deliver the required infrastructure to align with demand.

Brand Refresh presented by the Corporate Affairs Manager.

Southern Ports has completed and launched its new brand and positioning.

Key drivers for the project were to:

- support the new strategic direction and business outcomes
- bring our workforce together

Why now:

- It has been ten years since the amalgamation
- Southern Ports has evolved
- Changes to the workforce demographic
- Evolving trade situation

Process:

- Three-stage process:

1. Research

Investigating and understanding what sets Southern Ports apart and what our stakeholders and staff value about Southern Ports, including:

- significant engagement with staff and stakeholders
- using a deliberate 'ground up' approach – 40% of the work force were directly engaged
- engagement with key external stakeholders
- extensive desktop research

2. Strategy

Developing the brand strategy, resulting in:

- new positioning from a *company that facilitates trade* to a *solutions company that moves our world forward*
- four key brand pillars and a new brand story focused on: bold thinking to move forward together; stronger when connected, guardians of our adventurous playground, and awe-inspiring scale and precision
- a new brand statement: *working with the power of the ocean to move our world forward*
- a new Employee Value Proposition to attract like-minded people to our business
- new Values – Put people first, Believe in better, Embrace curiosity, Find your voice, and Be greater together

3. Create

Developing the visual identity, including:

- a refreshed logo – stronger, easier to use, but maintained the icon of the three ships intersecting and removed the names of the ports. The three ships represent the three different sized vessels that come into our ports.
- refreshed colour palettes, fonts, patterns, and textures.
- embedding the brand in a staged way – but already used on our updated website, digital collateral, advertising and video.

A video was presented to staff, with a shorter version to be shown at airports, on regional television and our social media channels.

5. New Staff and Safety and Security

The Regional Manager gave the following update: -

The Regional Manager shared the sad news that Marley the Dingo passed away on Sunday at the remarkable age of fifteen. Marley's story has touched many over the years, and it has

been heartening to see the outpouring of messages and media coverage reflecting just how deeply he impacted the lives of so many. The South West Development Commission is planning a tribute to honour Marley's life and legacy.

There have been several significant staff movements recently. Duncan Gordan has retired after nineteen years of dedicated service to Southern Ports. Additionally, our current Harbour Master, Les, will be retiring at the end of July. Les began his journey with the organisation seventeen and a half years ago as a Senior Pilot and has served as Harbour Master for the past two years. Lloyd Bailey will be stepping into the Harbour Master role following Les's departure.

We are also saddened to share the passing of Clive Ambrose, a former Harbour Master from several years ago. Clive was a respected figure, both within Southern Ports and the wider community.

The Turkey Point Road and Bridge project is progressing well and is on track for completion by late July or early August. Once open, the new road will provide public access to Turkey Point, redirecting traffic away from the port area. This change is aimed at improving safety and efficiency, as the port continues to experience high—and increasing—volumes of truck movements.

The Department of Transport's Outer Harbour rock groyne project is nearing completion. The groyne has been designed to support the development of a small boat precinct. As part of this initiative, a \$4 million fishing platform is also planned for construction on the groyne with the project currently in the planning phase.

Southern Ports has recently achieved full ISO 55001:2014 accreditation for our integrated asset management system—a significant and commendable milestone. This positions us among a select group of ports with this level of certification and highlights the capability of our asset management practices across the organisation.

In October, we will be launching a new style of port tours—conducted via water. These tours will be rolled out across all three of our ports.

Originally scheduled to commence in April, the first tours were unfortunately cancelled due to inclement weather. We are now in discussions with the Dolphin Discovery Centre to establish a partnership, as these tours will be offered as an extension to their existing Dolphin Discovery Tours.

6. Environment

The Regional Manager gave the following update: -

Southern Ports is currently preparing for this year's Fairy Tern breeding season at the Outer Harbour and is exploring measures to secure the area to support the protection of this endangered species.

7. Port Trade

The Regional Manager gave the following update:

The Federal Government has announced the award of a feasibility licence for the Bunbury Offshore Windfarm, and the associated Environmental Licence has also been approved. This typically involves vessels being deployed to the area to conduct various assessments.

At this stage, Bunbury Port has not yet received any formal notification regarding the next steps.

Southern Ports provides Wi-Fi devices that are taken on board vessels while berthed, enabling seafarers to connect with their families. We are currently trialling new technology to enhance the performance and reliability of these devices.

Committee members may have noticed the large earth mounds in the farmland along Willinge Drive, near the Leschenault Community Nursery. These are part of a surcharge assessment being conducted to evaluate the suitability of the material for potential future landfill use. Once the assessment is complete, the mounds will be levelled to improve visibility of the Nursery and the surrounding area.

RCR Mining is currently transporting construction equipment through Bunbury Port to Indonesia and is planning additional shipments in the future. Our laydown area is ideally located and well-suited for the storage of large-scale equipment.

We receive daily enquiries related to energy transition projects for Bunbury, with associated equipment expected to require significant laydown space and long-load escorts. It is encouraging to see companies considering Bunbury as a viable option for their operations.

To date, Bunbury Port has handled sixteen million tonnes of product, with volumes expected to reach seventeen million tonnes by the end of the 2024/25 financial year—closely aligned with our budget projections. The port benefits from a diverse range of products, including the world's largest export of alumina. We have also seen increased movement of caustic materials and a significant rise in silica sand exports. Additionally, substantial areas of land are now being utilised for energy transition projects.

8. Marine

The Regional Manager gave the following update:

The most recent dredging campaign at Bunbury Port was completed mid-March this year. During this period, we received community concerns regarding potential impacts on seagrass habitats. It is important to note that dredging has been a long-standing and necessary operation at Bunbury, with annual campaigns required to maintain the Inner Harbour, Outer Harbour, and shipping channel. Southern Ports typically undertakes dredging twice a year, with the necessary Federal approvals for the current 10 year licenced initiated 12 months in advance of the then existing licence. Regular environmental testing is conducted throughout the campaign, including analysis of dredged material at the designated offshore disposal site, and continues in accordance with our dredging licence requirements.

One of the community claims suggested that seagrass conditions in the estuary had deteriorated compared to the previous year, allegedly due to dredge material entering the estuary during high tides. However, dredging operations are closely monitored, including the use of drone surveillance, and checks are routinely conducted for any signs of leakage, particularly during high tides.

A Southern Ports representative sits on a working group with the South West Development Commission and along with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation have been provided with comprehensive historical and current testing data, which shows no evidence linking the reported seagrass decline to the dredging activity. Findings instead suggest other contributing factors, such as deposits from the Collie and Preston Rivers and high sea temperatures. Any turbidity in Koombana Bay resulting from 2 weeks of dredging is minor in terms of the turbidity generated along the whole coastline of the Bay through the winter storms.

Southern Ports remains fully compliant with all regulatory requirements and maintains transparent data records to support this. Committee members are encouraged to advise the port of any community concerns they may hear. A link to our Long-Term Management Plan,

which outlines all relevant processes and monitoring practices, will be provided to the Committee for reference.

[Bunbury Maintenance Dredging - Long Term Monitoring and Management Plan \(LTMMMP\).pdf](#)

9. Corporate Affairs

The Corporate Affairs Manager gave the following update:

The Hon. Stephen Dawson has been appointed as Western Australia's new Minister for Ports following the recent State Election. Minister Dawson previously held the portfolio for Mines and has now transitioned to Regional Development.

Port of Bunbury engagement snapshot

The 2025 cruise season welcomed the arrival of *Artania* on Saturday, 5 April, bringing approximately 1,300 passengers to our shores.

In addition, we were pleased to host a naval visit from HMAS *Warramunga* and HMAS *Hobart*, which were in port from 28 March to 1 April 2025.

Industry recognition

Southern Ports was proud to be named the National Winner for Information Management at the Asset Management Council Excellence Awards.

We also achieved outstanding recognition at the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) – State Awards, taking home top honours in the following categories:

- Excellence in Environment and Sustainability
- Excellence in Water Projects
- Excellence in Asset Management

These awards highlight our ongoing commitment to innovation, sustainability, and best-practice asset management across our operations.

Community engagement

Sixteen community groups were successful in receiving funding through Round 3 of the Community Investment Program, with a total of \$46,117 allocated to support local initiatives.

While our Community Boat Tours were postponed due to weather conditions, we were pleased to see strong community interest, with seven hundred people registered to take part.

Staff engagement

A highlight of 2025 was the successful rollout of our Internal Brand Launch Week, which engaged teams across the organisation in a week-long series of activities focused on our new strategy, values, and brand pillars.

We also refreshed our Health and Wellbeing Program, aligning it closely with our "Put People First" value. The program offers a range of support initiatives for staff, including gym memberships, financial advice, and other wellbeing resources.

Media: 3rd February – 1st May 2025

Media coverage during this period highlighted several key developments across Southern Ports, including our investments in both digital and physical infrastructure, a message from our CEO on the potential growth of the Port of Bunbury, new opportunities for iron ore trade through the Port of Esperance, and the announcement that all three ports will soon welcome the community through upcoming open day tours.

In Bunbury, media stories focused on the Port's growth potential, our Community Investment Program's support of the local triathlon which attracted participants to the region, visits from the Naval vessel and Artania cruise ship, emerging offshore wind initiatives, and the fishing platform development as part of the Transforming Bunbury Waterfront Project.

Upcoming

We are currently reflecting on our Reconciliation Action Plan, incorporating valuable feedback from Traditional Owners across our three regions. As part of this journey, we have also commissioned Indigenous artwork, with two of the four pieces already delivered and proudly received.

In parallel, procurement for a new Southern Ports website is underway. We are in the process of assessing the proposals received, with the project on track for completion in the second half of 2025.

10. Community Feedback

The important role of the Mission to Seafarers in supporting seafarer welfare was acknowledged, along with the growing need for additional volunteers to assist with their efforts.

A suggestion was made to fence the area adjacent to the golf course to better protect and preserve the space.

Southern Ports holds a sand extraction licence for the sand trap near BP Beach. The extracted sand is primarily used to replenish Wannerup Beach, with any remaining material allocated to support the construction of the new groyne revetment. Regular removal is essential to prevent the sand from drifting towards Berths 1 and 2. The RM noted, the sand is not extracted for resale purposes.

The Chair advised that he is involved with Offshore and Specialist Ships Australia, an organisation that has developed programs aimed at engaging secondary school students and promoting careers in the maritime industry. He suggested that Southern Ports may wish to participate by attending any upcoming school presentations.

11. Any Other Business

There was no other business

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

Meeting closed at 7.04 pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 6th August 2025

VENUE: Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre

ACTION ITEM LIST

FROM MINUTES OF PORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE - BUNBURY

7th MARCH 2025

ITEM NO	ACTION	DATE AROSE	ACTION BY	STATUS
8	Bunbury Maintenance Dredging – Long Term Monitoring and Management Plan – link to be included in the Minutes	12/06/2025	C Mckenzie/K Wilks	Link included in Minutes 27/06/2025
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	Corporate Affairs Team	Advertising to continues