

Port Geographe Community Consultation Forum

30th Meeting 18/12/15:

MINUTES OF THE THIRTIETH MEETING OF THE PORT GEOGRAPHE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FORUM HELD ON FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER 2015.

LOCATION, MEETING ROOM 1 AT COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE BUSSELTON.

ATTENDEES:

Hon Barry House MLC	Chairman
Mr Peter Maccora	Port Geographe Action Group
Mr Michael Maslin	DOT
Mr Barry Faithfull	Wonnerup Residents Association
Cr Gordon Bleechmore	City of Busselton
Ms Sharon Woodforde Jones	City of Busselton
Cr Terry Best	City of Busselton
Mr James Holder	DOT
Ms Judy Clarke	Wonnerup Residents Association
Mr Matthew Smith	City of Busselton
Mr Steven O'Brien	PGLOA
Mr Daniel Abraham	City of Busselton
Mr Greg Simpson	City of Busselton

APOLOGIES:

Mr Oliver Darby	City of Busselton
Mr Bob Godridge	Port Geographe Business Association
Ms Kate Denney	Port Geographe Action Group
Mr Peter McClurg	Port Geographe Landowners Association

1 Welcome, introduction of members and apologies.

PGCCF Chairman, Hon Barry House MLC, opened the meeting at 9.07 am. Apologies recorded.

2 Confirmation of the minutes of the Twenty-Nineteenth PGCCF meeting held on 12/12/14:

Moved: Mr Faithfull

Seconded: Mr Maccora

At this juncture, the Chairman of PGCCF, the Hon Barry House MLC, welcomed the Mayor of the City of Busselton, Cr Grant Henley. Mayor Henley formally thanked the members of PGCCF for their outstanding work and invaluable contributions over the last six years. The Mayor departed the meeting at 10.17 am.

3 Correspondence Out:

Nil

Correspondence In:

Nil

4 Mr James Holder/Mr Michael Maslin (DOT) to update the membership on the status/progress of the project works at Port Geographe. Inclusive in this update, DOT officers to report on the status and time frame of the Port Geographe landscaping program/ rollout. Stakeholder input as appropriate, including City of Busselton.

Mr Holder introduced Mr Maslin from the Department of Transport, who in tandem with Mr Holder, presented a comprehensive Port Geographe power point to the forum membership. Power Point is attached. During the presentation, Ms Clarke reiterated her position that Wonnerup was the poor cousin of the Port Geographe project, and was perpetually in deficit in sand renourishment. The Chairman , Hon Barry House, MLC, and all other community stakeholder representatives, stated that the reconfiguration project had delivered a massive improvement for Port Geographe in a relatively short time. In addition water quality was excellent, and this was truly a well delivered project . Ms Clarke acknowledged that a certain degree of success had been achieved, but Wonnerup had been neglected, and continued to be ignored by the Department of Transport.

The Chairman stated that this was not the case, and there was not a Wonnerup conspiracy. A series of questions were raised regarding delineation of ongoing Agency/Government (State/Local) responsibilities. The following information was provided by Mr Holder.

- DoT advised the Committee that the outcomes to date in relation to reduced wrack accumulation, reduced erosion and improved channel navigability have been extremely encouraging (an approximate 95% reduction in seagrass wrack was observed this year), but noted that it had been a mild winter, there is still a process of settling in underway and it is to be expected that there will be performance variations year to year which will determine work programs.
- DoT will continue to regularly survey and monitor the coast and waterways at Port Geographe and will as required implement necessary maintenance works in a manner that responds to seasonal impacts and variations.

- Presently the intended frequency of survey is for one broader area survey that includes the Port Geographe Coastal Management Area (PGCMA) and extends to adjacent areas in Geographe Bay annually, and two monitoring surveys specific to the PGCMA for DoT works forecasting or assessment purposes annually. As the program of annual works develops, the survey requirements may also be modified in time.
- DoT and the City confirmed that they will continue to work together and share monitoring information around Port Geographe both within and outside the PGCMA. The COB and DoT will continue to liaise regarding maintenance and management activities both within the PGCMA and in adjacent areas.
- The City noted it has been developing coastal management plans for areas adjacent to the PGCMA (including east Wonnerup).
- Annual works may range from sand and seagrass wrack management, to dredging of the navigable waterway. DoT advised that Port Geographe is now included in the DoT's state-wide program of dredging, sand and seagrass wrack management sites and that the results of monitoring will determine the annual scope of work as per all DoT managed sites. Annual works will also be implemented under the DoT's Environmental Management Framework which enables best environmental practices for all of the DoT's maintenance dredging and bypassing operations in the state.
- DoT will continue to maintain and monitor the Port Geographe mailbox (PortGeographe.Info@transport.wa.gov.au) and will provide periodic community updates by email around any significant activity or developments on site. The Port Geographe mailbox will be the primary communication pathway for Port Geographe residents to contact the DoT for the foreseeable future, and we welcome feedback on the "on ground "conditions of the site throughout the year. The phone line (1300 660 815) will still be operational if there is a more urgent need to contact DoT.
- The maintenance of the landscaping is predominantly still under the control of the DoT's landscaping construction contractor. Long term responsibility will be passed to the COB in due course, and the DoT and COB are working together to ensure that there is a smooth transition at the appropriate time.

5: The Chairman of PGCCF, Hon Barry House MLC, to communicate to the membership the resolution to finalise the Port Geographe Community Consultation Forum. The Chairman to extend a vote of thanks to the participants.

The Chairman, Hon Barry House MLC, extended a collective thankyou for the enormous volume of work that had been undertaken by Government agencies and the community stakeholder groups in the delivery of the Port Geographe project. All community stakeholder representatives, excluding Wonnerup Residents Association, expressed their genuine heartfelt thanks to the Chairman, and the State and Local Government representatives for the delivery of the Port Geographe project.

The Chairman also extended congratulations to the membership on behalf of the Member for Vasse, Libby Mettam MLA.

The Chairman, Hon Barry House MLC, articulated the following motion: “The membership of PGCCF resolves to finalise its activities, and requests the Chairman to notify and thank all stakeholders including relevant Ministers and agencies.”

Moved: Mr Maccora

Seconded: Mr Steve O’Brien’

The Chairman closed the meeting at 11.11pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record:

Hon Barry House MLC Chairman: