

Community Reference Group

Minutes of Meeting held on 13 September 2017 at 5.30 p.m.

Venue: Tamaki Room, Ports of Auckland Building

Present:

Name	Organisation
Tony Gibson	POAL
Craig Sain	POAL
Alistair Kirk	POAL
Luke Niue	PCC
Noelene Buckland	CCRG
Mike Blackburn	PCC
Pippa Coom	Waitemata Local Board
Denis Knill	Gladstone Apartments
Rick Ellis	Gladstone Apartments
Stephen Wagstaff	Auckland Yacht & Boating Association
Graham Bush	Campaign for Better Transport
Chris Langstaff	Hemisphere Apartments
Matt Ball	POAL
Alexandra Ropati	POAL

Apologies: Lyn Eden, Terry Anderson, Yvonne Theuerkauf

Business Update – Tony Gibson, POAL

The minutes from the previous meeting were taken as read.

Tony Gibson gave an update on the recently released annual results stating that net profit was in line with what was expected. He discussed investments made in the last year and their effect on profit. He noted that last year's net profit was \$84m and this year is was \$60.3m.

Tony went on to mention that the declared dividend was only down slightly from last year. He also shared with the group that the Ports of Auckland was voted the Best Seaport in Oceania for the second consecutive year. He discussed the trading environment, remarking that it was a difficult environment.

He noted that forecasted CAPEX spend for the next year will be much higher than previous years, but the spend will be on projects that will deliver significant benefits in terms of net profit and revenue.

He also noted that 950,000 TEU were handled in the last year which was up 5% on the year before. Car volumes were up 20% on the year before. He added that the Ports of Auckland is happy with the direction they're heading in and are looking forward to what the automation project will deliver.

Tony said that the outlook for 2018 was optimistic, with the company tracking ahead of container and car volumes already.

Mike Blackburn asked what the effect of automation on capacity would be. Tony noted that the port would be able to reach 3m TEU which would serve and Auckland population of 5 million people.

Graham Bush discussed a recent article in the media about the ownership structure. Tony Gibson added that the port has explored the idea of an ownership structure that would separate the operating company and land. He added that whether that structure was to move ahead would require public consultation.

Luke Niue asked what kind of valuation had been done to date? Tony responded that the port is valued about 1.2-1.3 billion. Some discussion around the valuation of land ensued.

Graham Bush asked if the existing cooperation between ports was the start of a national port strategy? Tony Gibson responded that it was a pre-cursor for having an established supply chain and that it was important to have competition alive and well in New Zealand.

Mike Blackburn asked if there had been any effect of the Waterview tunnel on port truck traffic. Nicola Tapper from National Road Carriers responded that there had been a positive effect.

Rick Ellis raised the subject of a new port building. Tony Gibson responded that concepts are still underway and when the port is ready, they will discuss port development plans with the group and wider public. He noted the plan will cover everything that would take place in the next 30 years. He added that all works would be publically notified.

Mike Blackburn asked if the aforementioned plan would include direct access to the motorway instead of having trucks travel through the city to get to the motorway? Alistair Kirk said it would not but it had been added to the list of ATAP projects. He also added that there were potentially other projects sitting at a higher priority.

Noelene Buckland asked what proportion of cars are imports and what proportion are exports? Tony responded that a small portion are transhipped to other places in New Zealand or to the Pacific Islands but most vehicles are imports. He added that as sales grow in the car industry, it may make sense for fewer cars to be transhipped and to go direct to other ports instead.

Mike Blackburn asked how many vehicles coming through Auckland stay in Auckland. Tony Gibson responded that about 60% or more stay in Auckland.

Luke Niue asked about a potential car park building at the port. Tony Gibson responded that this was being looked at and concepts will be shared with the group in due course.

Update – Matt Ball, Head of Communications

Matt Ball gave the group an update on ship noise, particularly from the loading of scrap metal and plate iron.

Luke Niue asked how often the ship comes into port (that is loaded with scrap metal or plate iron). He asked if it visited more than four times a year.

Alistair Kirk responded that it only visited about four times a year.

Luke Niue mentioned he had observed loud noise about two years ago and had phoned the port recently about loud noise. He noted that around Parnell the noise seems to be increasing.

Matt Ball continued to update the group, noting that the port had commissioned acoustic engineers Marshall Day to do some noise monitoring both at the port and on the corner of Dilworth and Augustus. He noted the purpose was to trial different mitigation measures and to help link the noise sources and where the noise is heard. Matt mentioned that they used things like rubber mats, iron sand cushions and built container walls to trial the effectiveness.

He shared the preliminary results which indicated the noise didn't appear to exceed the night time noise limits. He added that the port still recognised it was disruptive so they would not allow loading between 9pm and 7am between Monday and Saturday.

He added that there was more work to do, working out the correlation between noise and wind direction/strength.

Luke Niue expressed he was not happy with the 9pm curfew and asked if this could be brought forward to 7pm. Tony Gibson said the port would discuss with the ship's agent and revert to the group with a confirmed curfew.

Mike Blackburn asked if the port has looked at the method of how scrap metal is loaded. Alistair Kirk said that had been examined and discussed how the scrap metal is loaded into bins after being stockpiled on the wharf. He added that the port was talking to a company in Hamilton who puts smaller loads into containers but it wasn't feasible to use them for the operations in question as the consignments are too large.

There was some discussion around bunker fuel amongst the group.

Matt Ball mentioned that the port had just started a study with Auckland University around nitrous and sulphur dioxide around the port, looking to establish real-time monitoring and what the health impacts could be.

There was some discussion around sulphur. Tom Mullen discussed LNG use at European ports. Matt Ball added that the port had looked at LNG but there are no LNG facilities available in New Zealand.

A question was asked around water quality testing to which Matt Ball answered that Auckland Council manages water quality testing around the harbour.

AOB

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 6.33pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, 13 December