

Community Reference Group (CRG) Meeting – Thursday 26 May 2026 – key updates

Location: Royal Akarana Yacht Club, 8/10 Tamaki Drive, Auckland, 1071

Purpose: Business, Infrastructure and Sustainability update

Port speakers: CEO Roger Gray, GM Infrastructure Alistair Kirk, Head of Sustainability Nigel Ironside, GM Community, Communications and Government Relations Julie Wagener

Community attendees: T Mullen (PCC), Susan Geerlings, Gayle Bennett, Stephen Wagstaff, Paul McKluckie, John Mackay, Peter Elliott (Auckland Council)

Stakeholder Engagement

- Attendance at CRG meetings has declined in recent years, prompting a review of engagement approaches.
- POAL is seeking feedback from stakeholders on:
 - The value of ongoing in-person meetings
 - Whether stakeholders would prefer alternative formats, such as written updates or digital briefings.
- POAL remains committed to transparent and accessible communication and will adapt its approach based on stakeholder preference.

Commercial Performance and Outlook

- The port is currently performing ahead of expectations, reflecting improving economic conditions and increased customer activity.
- Key highlights:
 - Forecast to exceed FY26 net profit target of \$95 million.
 - Commitment to deliver a \$52 million dividend to Auckland Council
 - Container volumes up ~5% year-on-year, with forecast volumes exceeding 930,000 TEU — the highest in several years.
 - Continued evidence of trade recovery and customer growth
- This performance reflects a strengthening position for the port as customers return, and trade volumes normalise.

Economic Indicators

Several operational indicators point to broader economic recovery:

- Vehicle imports up approximately 20% year-on-year.

- Growth in agricultural machinery imports.
- Increased volumes of construction-related materials, including steel and cement.

These trends suggest a gradual but sustained uplift in economic activity across key sectors.

Infrastructure and Capital Programme

Bledisloe North Wharf Development

- Construction is progressing well:
 - Approximately one-third of piles installed.
 - Around half of deck components completed.
- This development will:
 - Enable servicing of larger vessels.
 - Increase operational capacity and resilience.

New Cruise Terminal (Opening March 2027)

Key features:

- Processing capacity of ~1,500 passengers per hour.
- Designed to support vessels with up to ~4,500 passengers.
- Includes customs, security, and baggage handling facilities.
- Dedicated pick-up/drop-off (PUDO) area.

Operational changes:

- Large cruise vessels will berth at Bledisloe North.
- Queens Wharf will continue servicing mid-sized vessels.

Future phases include a dedicated elevated walkway connecting terminal and vessels.

Transport and Freight Access

- Transport connectivity remains a critical constraint for port operations.

Current Challenges

- Congestion along The Strand corridor.
- Continued reliance on road freight.
- Limited uptake of rail transport, due largely to industry constraints.

Future Focus

- Collaboration with central and local government to improve road and rail access.
- Potential realignment of The Strand corridor.
- Replacement of the Strand Bridge (approaching end-of-life), creating a key opportunity to redesign freight access routes.

Pricing Strategy and Demand Management

POAL continues to implement a time-of-use pricing model to better manage demand:

- Peak access charges:

- Increasing from \$180 to \$230 (July 2026).
- Long-term target of approximately \$400 peak / \$200 off-peak.

Objective:

- Encourage freight operators to use off-peak times.
- Improve overall port productivity and traffic flow.
- Support potential shift toward rail usage.

Harbour Health and Environmental Programme

- POAL is progressing a comprehensive Harbour Health Programme, focused on improving marine biodiversity and ecosystem resilience in the Waitematā Harbour.

Programme Objectives

- Restore and enhance marine habitats.
- Improve biodiversity and ecological connectivity.
- Support regional environmental strategies, including the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan (Sea Change).

Key Initiatives

- Reuse of dredged materials to create:
 - Artificial reefs.
 - Habitat restoration zones (e.g., Judges Bay, Rangitoto Channel).
- Deployment of:
 - Floating habitat structures.
 - Mussel rope systems.
 - Artificial substrates to support marine growth.
- Enhancement of bird roosting and nesting areas.

Progress

- Strong early results from pilot structures.
- Programme entering resource consent phase (publicly notified).
- This initiative represents a significant shift toward active environmental restoration, beyond compliance obligations.

Dredging Programme

- The port's dredging programme will support current and future vessel requirements.
 - Stage 1: Approximately 800,000 cubic metres.
 - Total programme: Approximately 1.5 million cubic metres.
 - Target channel depth: 15.2 metres.
 - Enables servicing of vessels up to 10,000 TEU.

Energy and Fuel Infrastructure

- A new **marine bunkering vessel** is planned to enhance fuel service capability:
 - Supports multiple fuel types (low and high sulphur fuels).

- Designed in partnership with BP.
- Expected to be operational by 2028.
- Investment decisions are aligned with current market demand, while maintaining flexibility for future fuel transitions.

Waterfront Access and Public Realm Opportunities

- POAL is exploring opportunities to improve public access and amenity along parts of the waterfront.
- Potential initiatives include:
 - Opening sections of Captain Cook and Marsden wharves.
 - Development of public walkways or viewing structures.
 - Integration with environmental enhancements and habitat restoration.
- These initiatives aim to balance operational requirements with community access and engagement.

Key Themes and Outlook

Strong Performance

- Revenue and volumes exceeding expectations.
- Clear signs of economic recovery.

Infrastructure Transformation

- Significant capital investment underway.
- Future-ready capacity and capability.

Transport Challenges

- Continued dependency on road freight.
- Need for integrated, long-term transport solutions.

Environmental Leadership

- Harbour Health Programme positioning POAL as a leader in port sustainability and restoration.

Next Steps

- Continued delivery of key infrastructure projects.
- Advancement of Harbour Health Programme through consenting.
- Ongoing collaboration with government stakeholders on transport improvements.
- Review and refinement of stakeholder engagement approach, maintain current community meeting settings based on positive feedback but will continue to review based on demand.