

---

## Port Stakeholder Working Group

10am-11:30am, Friday 29 January 2016  
Port of Townsville Admin Meeting Room, Benwell Road

---

### MINUTES

<b>Present</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
David Donohue	Chair (QCCN)
Judy Newman, Ian Ferguson, Clive Berger	Community Reps
Chris Wake	DEHP
Anne Williams	Glencore
Mark Daniell	South32 - Cannington
Elaine Glen	Sun Metals
Sharon Hoops, Melinda Loudon	POTL
Charlie McColl, Wendy Tubman	NQCC
David Wainwright	DSITI
Dave King	NSS
Damien Farrington	QLD Health
Nina Henney, Anthony Morrison	DEHP
Angela Lawson	TCC
<b>Apologies</b>	
Sharon Hoops, Ranees Crosby	POTL
Tracey Bauer, Graeme Nielsen	South 32 - Cannington
Gavin Hammond	TCC
Agata Graham, Greg O'Shea	Glencore
James Hobbs	Community Rep
Chris Wake	DEHP
George Lukacs	QNI
Peta Connelly	TBSH
Juliette Sperber	NSS

#### **1. Welcome, Introductions**

David Donohue welcomed attendees and noted the apologies for the meeting.

#### **2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of the November meeting were adopted unchanged.

#### **3. Port Update –**

Port communications update on Community e-newsletter and Clean Up Australia Day Activity

Sharon Hoops confirmed that the Port Community Newsletter was distributed via email on Wednesday 7 January to a subscriber base of just over 300 people. Next edition is due out in April. The PSWG was reminded of the four subscription methods (telephone 4781 1601, email [community@townsvilleport.com.au](mailto:community@townsvilleport.com.au), Facebook sign up or [www.townsvilleport.com.au](http://www.townsvilleport.com.au) sign up.

It was suggested by Sharon that one of the four community representatives could write a contribution for each edition of the newsletter – [Judy Newman agreed to make the first contribution for the April 2016 edition.](#)

The Port will be hosting a Clean Up Australia Day event on Sunday 6 March at the Maritime Museum foreshore area (not as stated in the meeting as the Enviro Park). Details of the event will be circulated to PSWG members in the second week of February.

Sharon Hoops advised the PSWG of other community engagement activities later in 2016 including the arrival of HMAS Townsville in mid-February and her subsequent placement at the Museum and tour opportunities. Wendy Tubman queried the approval of placement at the Museum and was advised that the Harbour Master had reviewed and was happy with the intended placement of the vessel.

The next port Community Information Session will be scheduled once the Supplementary EIS for the Port Expansion Project has been submitted in March.

Sharon advised the PSWG of the impending inaugural arrival of HMAS Adelaide on 26 February and provided some brief information on the port's plans to improve the urban interface and amenity between the port and the residential community. Also noted that the port is a platinum sponsor of the T150 events this year with Townsville City Council.

Charlie asked two general questions – firstly what happened to the nickel ore ship that had a “liquefaction event” late last year when travelling to Australia. Sharon Hoops provided some information about why liquefaction occurs, including details around loading port contributing factors and monsoonal effects. [Will find out what happened to the ship and revert back at next meeting.](#)

Charlie also enquired if there was a crushing plant on the QNI conveyor belt that was used to crush rocks or debris in the nickel ore product? Dave King from NSS confirmed there was a crusher and a magnet that extracted items from the raw product.

#### **4. EHP Update**

- Update on data correlation activities
- Coastguard monitoring update

See agenda point 5 for combined notes on the EHP/DSITI update

#### **5. DSITI Update**

- Analysis of deposition data
- July Air Quality Bulletin
- Update on air quality standards
- Update on monitoring sites

David Wainwright presented an update on the most recent air quality monitoring results (up until December 2015). David noted a general fall in the average from 380 to around 300 following the “drop off” of the November 2014 results. David also noted no lead determinations from the North Ward monitoring site.

Charlie made an observation that the period between September and December didn't appear to be a very good result in terms of levels of dust. David noted that rainfall for the period has been very low and this tends to drive up dust levels.

Charlie also noted that the trend indicates a steady rise in dust levels over the past few years. “If there have been significant efforts to reduce emissions over the last few years, then this did not seem to be showing in the figures?”

Melinda Loudon agreed there had been an increase in readings, hence the investigations into sources and the establishment of the PSWG.

David Wainwright added however that there had been a 45% reduction in TSP (finer) particle emissions recorded at the Coastguard site between 2014 and 2015.

David also commented that the data from the Xact machine over the next six months will give DISITI and EHP a better handle on the differentiation of the particulates that contribute to dust deposition.

Melinda Loudon commented that the data readings prior to 2014 were a bit patchy and asked David if this would lead to a higher or lower overall average? David replied it would depend which months (of data) were missing (ie. if summer months were missing it could make the average lower and vice versa).

Anthony Morrison from EHP stated that the trend of TSP lead levels was certainly declining and that trend will be closely monitored from here.

Wendy Tubman asked Nina from EHP if the correlation work that was being carried out by Chris Wake and his team was still happening?

Nina advised that the previous body of work (on correlation) had been completed however that does not mean that EHP is no longer working on the issue. At the moment EHP is keen to examine further the data that is being produced by the Xact monitor. The previous correlation work between the port and port customers was not produced in a format that was available for publication and was compiled using commercial-in-confidence information.

David Donohue added that there had definitely been an upward trend in results over the years however no laws or regulations had been broken.

David W commented that the rate of increase had certainly been arrested and has now plateaued. Now we need to ensure we do further to keep it declining.

Anne Williams commented – as EHP provide feedback to users and data results, the users (customers) plan improvements where and when necessary however these improvements in standards and procedures take time. They need to be planned and budget for – it's not an overnight solution.

Wendy Tubman said it would be helpful to get a list of the improvements that had occurred at the port over say the last 12 months. Sharon Hoops to begin compiling this list and will liaise with port users.

Clive Berger queried if the North Ward monitoring station had been calibrated recently to ensure accurate results. Melinda Loudon replied that the monitoring station was simply a funnel with a test pad inside therefore no calibration was required. Nina added that the monitor complied with Australian Standards. David W added that as you move further away from the source (of the dust) you will find less concentrates at the monitoring stations.

EHP added that they were still looking for a new monitoring site for the old Pimlico monitoring station and should resolve this within 6 months.

Elaine from Sun Metals requested that the next presentation on data results include TSP's in the presentation.

## **6. Other Regulator reports (by exception)**

QLD Health reported that following the reduction in standard of blood lead levels four weeks ago there had been a slight increase in the reporting of cases in North Queensland – all of which related to expected occupations that handle lead.

Townsville City Council, as the environmental regulator of the SIMS Metal lease site, reported that a number of inspections had occurred since the fire in December and this investigation was ongoing.

## 7. General Business

David reported that he (and South32) had provided a port tour to Kathy Burns from JCU after she emailed with concerns around loading procedures at the port (including uncovered conveyors). Following the tour Kathy was pleased and reassured that the conveyors were already enclosed and loading procedures were to her satisfaction.

David Donohue raised with Clive Berger his query late last year over the omission from the media statement about data correlation work. The PSWG group had various discussions regarding this including EHP reiterating that the report was not produced for publication and contained commercial-in-confidence information.

Sharon Hoops queried the aim of publishing such a statement and what end result Clive was after?

Charlie asked why a general statement could not be made, confirming correlation between emissions in the air coming from the port.

The PSWG agreed to consider the issue over the next 4 weeks and table it again as an Agenda item when Chris Wake returns.

Ian Ferguson wished to table that he represents a large constituent group that live in Townsville and that these residents are very happy with what's going on here (in the PSWG) and the ports activities and not to listen to the vocal 1% who are the minority.

## 8. Meeting Close

Next meeting to be held Friday 26 February at 10am in the **Major Projects Room at the Port.**



David Donohue, Chair

26/2/2016

Date