
Port Stakeholder Working Group

Tuesday 7 April 2015, 9:00am-11:00am
Port of Townsville Board Room, Administration Building, Benwell Road

MINUTES

Present	Company
Wendy Tubman	North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC)
Gavin Hammond	Townsville City Council (TCC)
Drew Penny, Graeme Nielsen, Tracey Bauer	BHP Billiton (Cannington)
Greg O'Shea, Anne Williams, Agata Graham (Telephone)	Glencore
George Lukacs	Qld Nickel (QN)
Peta Connelly	Townsville Bulk Storage and Handling (TBSH)
Juliette Sperber, Jade	Northern Stevedoring Services (NSS)
Chris Wake	Department of Environment & Heritage Protection (EHP)
Damien Farrington	Queensland Health (QH)
David Wainwright (Telephone)	Department of Science, IT and Innovation (DSITI)
Ranee Crosby, Melinda Loudon, Tim Smith	Port of Townsville Limited (POTL)

1. Welcome and Background

POTL welcomed and thanked all for participating in the Port Stakeholder Working Group, which was established in response to the continued and increasing attention in relation to dust and metals levels in the community.

Establishment of the PSWG is intended to improve engagement between port operators and the community / key stakeholders by providing transparency regarding port operations, port emissions and contributions to overall city air quality, compliance levels and continuous improvement initiatives and providing a mechanism for community and stakeholder concerns to be raised and addressed.

2. Port Stakeholder Working Group (PSWG)

Introductions, Purpose of Group and Participant Expectations

All parties introduced themselves and the organisation they represent, and provided an overview of the outcomes they were seeking from participation on the PSWG.

All parties recognised that the PSWG will provide a valuable mechanism for improved communication and engagement between the operators of the port, the community and key stakeholders.

Community / Stakeholder Representatives

Discussion took place regarding the number of community representatives to be appointed, the process for seeking community representatives and the criteria to be used to make appointments.

Agreed Actions:-

- *Advertisements would be placed inviting members of the public to nominate to participate on the PSWG with anticipated 3-5 members to be appointed;*
- *Shortlisting of applications and selection of the community representatives would be undertaken by a smaller selected group comprising Wendy Tubman (NQCC), Gavin Hammond (TCC), Greg O'Shea or other nominee (Glencore) and Melinda Loudon (POTL);*
- *POTL will develop a draft advertisement and selection criteria and circulate to the selection committee for feedback with a view to advertisements being placed within 1 week.*

Independent Facilitator / Chair

POTL noted that it was considered important to have independence in the Chair/Facilitation of the PSWG, and requested nominations / suggestions. General discussion took place regarding suitable parties, availability, costs and level of independence.

Agreed Actions:-

- *POTL to approach James Cook University to seek recommended candidates that may take on the role;*
- *POTL to circulate the CV's of nominated candidates to the Group and request that any objections to any candidates be advised;*
- *If no objections are received in a reasonable period (within a week) POTL will proceed to make appointment;*
- *POTL will meet any costs associated with engaging the services of a Chair / Facilitator, which all parties acknowledge may be necessary given the time commitment that will be required of any such person.*

Decision Making

The Group discussed the nature of any decisions that the PSWG may make and the process for making decisions. It was noted that a number of members of the PSWG have regulatory roles and functions, and many members have corporate structures relating to delegations.

It was recognised that the principal purpose of the PSWG is to improve engagement and to make recommendations regarding improvements, which are then matters for regulators and operators to consider. Any decisions of the PSWG itself would relate specifically to the PSWG (e.g. Terms of Reference, composition of the group, communications by the group etc).

This matter will be subject to ongoing review as the operations of the PSWG progress.

Group Communications and Media

It was noted that the various organisations represented on the PSWG have differing corporate policies relating to media and communications. It was discussed and agreed that the only party that should speak directly for and on behalf of the PSWG will be the independent Chair of the Group, once appointed.

This does not limit the ability of individual members to comment in relation to their organisation's participation on the PSWG.

This will be reviewed and revised as the PSWG commences its full role.

Agreed Actions:-

- *POTL to draft a Media and Communications Protocol document to be considered by the PSWG at its next meeting.*

Group Terms of Reference

A discussion draft Terms of Reference was tabled for review by all members. POTL noted background to other community engagement groups that had been established. Purpose and scope of the group was discussed. It was noted that having an initial duration for the PSWG would be beneficial, agreed that this should be 12 months with the group to review the effectiveness and ongoing necessity of the group at this time.

Agreed Actions:-

- *Draft ToR to be circulated with minutes.*
- *All members to provide feedback on the draft ToR to POTL by Friday 10 April (to enable draft ToR to be available for community representative recruitment).*
- *Final ToR to be adopted by the PSWG at its next meeting once full membership complement is in place.*

3. Port of Townsville Operations

General Overview of Operations

Ranee Crosby provided a presentation outlining the general operations of the Port of Townsville, covering the statutory and commercial roles and functions of POTL, the diversity of products handled, transportation and product handling methods of the various operators and future trade outlook scenarios.

Current Environmental Controls, Monitoring Programs, Compliance and Trends

Melinda Loudon presented on POTL's ambient air quality monitoring program, including:-

- dust deposition at 9 sites, including 7 port boundary sites, collected monthly;
- high volume air samplers (PM10 and TSP) at 3 sites (Coast Guard, Lennon Drive and Environmental Park) which collect samples over a 24 hour period every 6 days;
- TEOM (PM10) located at the Coast Guard (previously Berth 10).

A Coordinated Air Quality Monitoring Program is undertaken to support common port user air monitoring requirements. POTL's monitoring has shown compliance with EPP(Air) and NEPM guidelines since monitoring began.

It is noted that there is a difference between POTL's results and DEHP's, which the parties explained as differences in the day that the samples are taken being different (and therefore annualised results being different).

It was noted that the trends in emissions rates are not clearly linked to trade tonnages and shipping activity, as demonstrated by investigations undertaken in the past.

4. Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP)

Overview of EHP / DSITI Monitoring Results and Trends

Chris Wake gave a presentation on DEHP's historic data results. EHP's monitoring measures metals in TSP at the Coast Guard site, and metals in dust deposition at the Coast Guard site, North Ward and Pimlico.

EHP outlined previous dust investigations undertaken in 2007 and 2008-09 in response to community concerns. Both investigations showed that emissions from port operations were not significant contributors to ambient dust levels and did not present community health concerns.

EHP noted that emissions from port operations have been well below the EPP (Air) Objective since monitoring began in 2008. Lead levels currently are 40% below the EPP (Air) Objective based on DSITI's monitoring. There has been an increasing trend in lead levels in the last 2 years at the Coast Guard monitoring site, which is a concern of EHP to ensure that this trend does not continue.

Chris Wake noted that port operators are the experts in product handling methods, and EHP is therefore looking for the solutions to come from operators.

Future Considerations – Standards, Monitoring and Licensing

Discussion took place regarding the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommendation for a reduction in the blood lead level investigation trigger from 10 micrograms per decilitre (ug/dL) to five. The current EPP (Air) Objective levels are a derivation of the health guideline.

General discussion took place regarding the Taylor report commissioned by NQCC and the correlation of results and data with the EHP/DSITI data and POTL's data, and also the guidelines used to analyse and interpret results.

David Wainwright noted that the EPP (Air) Objective has been established taking into account health considerations, which includes both direct inhalable particles and allowance for deposition, in order to determine any trigger levels.

The relevance and application of other standards referenced (e.g. German Luft) was discussed. It was agreed there would be benefit in having this matter further discussed at the next meeting, given the misinterpretations that can arise.

DSITI advised that a reduction in the national blood level (e.g. by half) would not directly correlate to a 50% reduction in the EPP (Air) Objective – it would not likely be this much of a reduction. The process for establishing a revised EPP (Air) Objective involves many detailed matters for investigation. A reduction in the EPP (Air) Objective could take at least 12-24 months beyond any reduction in the blood level investigation trigger.

Proposed Enhanced Monitoring Program

Chris Wake noted that EHP will be installing a new monitoring station at the Coast Guard site (to replace the existing EHP station) that monitors near-real time data (15 minute intervals), which will greatly enhance EHP's network. It is anticipated that this monitoring station will be installed around June 2015. This equipment is state of the art, and not dissimilar to that operating in Mount Isa.

Real time monitoring will provide greater accuracy of data which may then be better correlated against circumstances occurring at the time, including weather patterns, operational activities etc.

George Lukacs from QN noted that any new monitor should incorporate meteorological data to be meaningful. Also that any future monitoring program should include soil quality testing/data.

Agreed Actions:

- *EHP and POTL to work together to review the extent of the monitoring network, with a view to having the new EHP station as the single Coast Guard monitor used by all parties, recognising this necessitates a review of the Port Coordinated Air Quality Monitoring Program.*
- *EHP and POTL to provide an overview of the detail of proposed extended monitoring at the next meeting.*

5. PSWG Action Plan

Discussion Regarding Issues / Concerns and Development of Agreed Actions and Timelines

The following key areas of interest were raised, with agreement that these items form the basis of the agenda for the next PSWG meeting.

- *Brief presentations by each Port Operator on product handling methods, recent improvements and comparison to "best practice" operations;*
- *EHP/DSITI/QH – presentation on the context for setting of the EPP(Air) Objective levels (notably lead) in terms of relationship to deposition and health factors, and expectations of likely future NEPM / EPP standards and timeframes;*
- *EHP – outline of the new monitoring station, parameters analysed, how information is presented, relativities to other similar monitoring programs.*

6. General Business

Nil.

7. Next Meeting

9am-11am, Tuesday 5 May 2015.