

Port Stakeholder Working Group

Friday 28 August 2015, 10.00am- 11.30am,
Port of Townsville Board Room, Administration Building, Benwell Road

MINUTES

Present	Organisation
David Donohue	Chair (QCCN)
Clive Berger, Ian Ferguson	Community Reps
Nina Henney, Chris Wake	DEHP
Don Neale	DSITI
Damien Farrington	QLD Health
Greg O'Shea, Anne Williams	Glencore
Juliette Sperber, David King	NSS
Wendy Tubman, Charlie McColl	NQCC
Gavin Hammond	TCC
Kim Gebers, Melinda Loudon, Sharon Hoops	POTL
Graeme Nielsen, Mark Daniell, Greg Freeman	South32 - Cannington
Elaine Glen	Sun Metals
David Wainwright	DSITI
Apologies	
Judy Newman, James Hobbs	Community Rep
Tracey Bauer	South 32 - Cannington
George Lukacs	QN
Ranee Crosby	POTL
Peta Connelly	TBSH

1. Welcome and Introduction of new members

New people were welcomed to today's meeting – Charlie McColl for NQCC (replacing Bill Laing) and Greg Freeman from South32.

Apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

- The Minutes of the previous meeting from Friday 31 July 2015 were adopted without amendment.

Action: Copy of adopted minutes to be uploaded to Dropbox.

3. Media Coverage and ongoing public dialogue

- Letter to Editor – Townsville Bulletin – Dr Rubenach
David discussed the letter that was sent to the Townsville Bulletin as well as the reply that was sent by the PSWG group to the Editor. The letter has not been published and at the time of writing these minutes had still not been published. The letter contained many incorrect facts about the handling and storage of commodities at the Port of Townsville.
- Sharon Hoops suggested that more action needed to be taken by the port and port users to try and “fill the information vacuum” that seems to exist in the community relating specifically to commodities being covered in and out of the port, our storage sheds for most commodities.
- Ian Ferguson commented on behalf of his constituents “Remember one of the purposes of the PSWG is to establish where the dust is coming from. If measurements close to

the port are under guidelines, where else could the dust be coming from. What about the diesel trains that run every half hour in sugar crushing season? What about sulphate that emanates from ships? Disputing the recommended levels does not bring us closer to establishing the sources.”

- Ian Ferguson also asked the port customer representatives if they had noticed any trends in the monitoring of illnesses due to atmospheric pollutants. Both South32 and Glencore indicated that they had not seen any trends, South 32 offered to present on hygiene processes implemented at the port.
- Charlie McColl asked health if QLD Health had any monitoring data on the blood levels of people living close to the port. QLD Health indicated that they did not, because there had been no trigger incidents (of elevated blood levels) to warrant the collection of such data.

Action: Sharon to liaise with port users and come up with some suggested strategies for education/communication with community stakeholders.

4. EHP Report

- Chris Wake provided an update on the installation of the monitoring equipment. Data output format (onto website) is being amended to make it more user friendly and easier to understand.
- It was noted that reports from each department (DEHP, QLD Health, DSITI) would only be provided by exception at each PSWG meeting.

6. DSITI Report

- David Wainwright repeated his presentation from the last PSWG meeting on lead standards and EPP Air Objectives. **See Minutes of PSWG Meeting 29 July for transcript bullet points.**
- Following the presentation, Juliette Sperber of NSS commented: “Knowing the standards is important but it isn’t going to help the port bring down depositions. Our (PSWG) purpose is to bring down depositions and I feel like the PSWG is diverting from what its main objective is – to focus on the continual improvement of air emissions from the port, even though we are already at acceptable levels.”
- David Donohue commented that “We have our regulator partners in the PSWG that we entrust to do their tasks effectively. Although it is useful to know more about the standards, we need to accept that there are standards in place, and being enforced. This group is not about amending the standards, that is a separate issue altogether.”

7. Queensland Health Report

- It was noted that a proposal has been sent to Minister to lower reportable blood lead levels - the blood lead level is to move from 10 µg/dL (micrograms per decilitre) to 5 µg/dL.

8. General Business

- The opening of the new NSS bulk handling facility will take place on Thursday 10 September at 4pm. Invite distributed to all PSWG members.

David Donohue, Chair

Date