

Port Stakeholder Working Group

Friday 31 July 2015, 10.00am- 11.30am,
Port of Townsville Board Room, Administration Building, Benwell Road

MINUTES

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

1. Welcome and Introduction of new members

New people were welcomed to today's meeting – Scott Sullivan from DEHP.

Apologies were noted.

Wendy Tubman noted that NQCC will be seeking an alternative representative to Bill Laing to sit on the PSWG.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

- The Minutes of the previous meeting from Wednesday 24 June 2015 were adopted without amendment.

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

3. Port User Presentations

- Peta Connelly from TBSH presented an overview of operations.
 - Two questions from Wendy Tubman – “Who do you report to on dust” and “What type of concentrates does TBSH handle”.
 - A: “We report our data to RPS Consultants and respond to DEHP requests as required. We are also required to provide annual reporting data to DEHP. Being the new kid on the block, our (TBSH) licence requirements are the most stringent of all port operators.”

- Peta: “I’d like to add that we work with all our clients to mitigate emissions at the source of the product (say the mine site) to reduce emissions at the end point (the port). This includes working on limits for Transportable Moisture Levels (TMLs)
- Peta “TBSH moves lead, zinc and copper for our clients; a total of three shipments of lead over the duration of our operation.”
- George Lukacs from QNI presented an overview of operations
 - Question from Wendy Tubman “Do the stockpiles at the port (or ore) have runoff ponds and are they tested and are they lined.”
 - Answer: “The runoff from the small stockpiles at the Port is directed through a series of ponds which are fully lined; the water is monitored and tested before discharge (if discharge is required due to heavy rain etc.)”

Action: TBSH and QN presentations to be uploaded to the Dropbox

4. Presentations by Regulator partners

- DEHP – Scott Sullivan provided a verbal overview to the PSWG of DEHP’s main function and responsibilities.
 - “We licence activities at the port under the environmentally relevant Act (ERA) – these activities are usually around discharges of some nature (air, water).
 - We issue licences to regulate that activity after the potential licensee makes an application for an environmental authority which then sets limits for their activity.
 - Under the Act there is also the EPP for air which is a set of air quality objectives. Many of the contemporary licences (like TBSH’s) are reflective of the EPP.
 - Separately, DISITI run an Air Monitoring Program around the state (of Queensland). They collect data and produce documents like the Air Quality Bulletin (copies distributed to the PSWG during the meeting).
 - If we (DEHP) see problems arising we work with our licencees to get better outcomes.
 - **Question** from Wendy at NQCC: “TBSH are required to monitor every vessel loading and unloading, is that required of every operator?”
 - **Answer:** No – each other operator was issued a licence that reflected the standard at that point in time. As standards change they do not automatically transfer to an existing licence. Legislation doesn’t freely allow us to do this. If an operator has a breach however, we can force changes on an existing licence.
 - DEHP has initiated an investigation over the past three years due to increasing levels of metals in the air. We are about half way through that process.
 - **Question** from Wendy at NQCC: “Is the government looking at a review of licence standards?”
 - **Answer:** Every time an operator makes a change to their operation, then that is a window of opportunity for the department to amend their licence. We also have a range of enforcement tools (including an environmental investigation) that we can use if operators don’t comply, which can be used to change their licence. If the breach is a serious one we can issue an Environmental Protection Order that directs the licensee to implement immediate action.
 - Licence conditions have evolved over recent years – rather than us set specified and onerous regulations, we have moved more towards a “what’s coming out of the pipe” arrangement. DEHP sets the limit for the licensee then they can work out how they can meet the standard. This allows for innovation from the licensee to meet environmental obligations. However the bulk of port users have not had this new type of licence conditions issued.

- David Wainwright from DSITI provided a verbal overview of their responsibilities.
 - Our department provides monitoring and reporting to State Government departments, corporate clients and others.
 - In Gladstone we jointly run and fund the monitoring network with all data made publicly available.
 - We are currently working with Queensland Resources Council (QRC) at a coal dust emission monitoring program in Gladstone which will be funded by users and industry.
 - The biggest change in monitoring over recent times has been the introduction of real-time monitoring equipment and live data publishing.
 - We currently have 35 stations producing data on our website.
 - Guidelines and Standards – the Government has the EPP of 2008 for air which are guidelines for levels. DEHP pick up these guidelines and put them in licence conditions. The guidelines are based on a number of standards from around the world, but primarily set around WHO's standards for Europe.
 - The EPP for air is written so that national changes can be readily accommodated.
 - Around every ten years standards are reviewed. The blood lead reduction to .5mg will be picked up by QLD Health guidelines.
 - Previously the major driver of lead standards were due to lead in petrol and paint, as they were readily bioavailable.
 - It needs to be considered that current lead levels that relate to mining (lead sulphate) are less bioavailable.
 - In Australia there are no standards for lead in dust deposition. We are considering trying to set some type of limit for this. LUFT (Germany) is the only existing standard and this does not correlate to Australian conditions, however the current EPP objective accounts for lead as well as for dust.
 - Surface wipe samples taken in Mt Isa did not prove to have any correlation to blood levels in children.
 - The situation in Townsville needs to take into account a few factors such as the likely sources and type of lead being considered
 - Data in the latest Air Quality Bulletin shows an encouraging reduction in lead levels but the annualised rolling average will remain high until the unusually November 2014 reading is replaced.
- The presentations by Queensland Health and Townsville City Council were postponed until the August meeting.

Action: Upload copy of Air Quality Bulletin to Dropbox.
Uploaded

6. EHP Report

- New monitoring equipment installation has been completed and a period of three weeks for calibration is now underway.
- An announcement will be made at the end of August regarding its official commencement.

7. DSITI Report

- Provided in Agenda item 5.

8. General Business

- The Port of Townsville Community Information Session will take place on Wednesday 5 August @ 5.30pm at the Townsville Maritime Museum.

- David Donohue made note that the Working Group did not have a policy on managing potential conflicts of interest and asked members to consider if such a document or declaration was necessary.

9 Next meeting

- Friday 28 August, 10:00 to 11:30am, POTL Boardroom

David Donohue, Chair

Date

DRAFT