

COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING HELD IN THE SEAPORT BOARDROOM OF MACKAY PORT AUTHORITY

TUESDAY 28TH JANUARY 2003

PRESENT	Greg McNeill	Mackay City Council
	David Aprile	Mackay Chamber of Commerce
	Greg Thomsen	Qld Council of Unions
	Ian Sutton	Mackay Conservation Group
	Michael DePinto	Michael DePinto Air Conditioning (Community Representative)
	Alison Jones	SPACA
	Keiran Lowth	P&C President Slade Point (Community Representative)
	Jeff Smith	Department of Natural Resources & Mines
	Garry Mooney	Yuibera Traditional Owners
	Allan Young	Mackay Tourism & Development Bureau
	Andrew Barfield	Mackay Sugar
	Paul Schembri	Mackay Canegrowers
	Peter Cahill	Port Advisory Committee
	Damian Pearson	Environmental Protection Agency
	John Taylor	Mackay Port Authority
	Scott Keane	Mackay Port Authority
	Greg Mann	Mackay Port Authority
	Bertha Wells	Mackay Port Authority

APOLOGIES Ross Dodt Department of Primary Industries

MEETING OPENED The meeting commenced at 1.00pm with a light lunch.
The formal proceedings commenced at 1.15pm.

Welcome by Chairman of Mackay Port Authority Mr John Taylor, Chairman of Mackay Port Authority welcomed all Community Reference Group representatives to the inaugural meeting, noting Michael DePinto and Keiran Lowth are the elected public representatives in the group.

John advised that the group is a broad based community group to aid the Port Authority in future consultations and consideration of key issues. It is hoped it will become a means for effective two-way communication between the Port Authority and the community.

The Port Advisory Committee consists of port users and tenants of the port and the PAC was:

- instrumental in setting up this community group,
- responsible for the selection of the two community nominees, and
- also considered the need to appoint an inaugural chairperson.

The PAC's representative on this committee is their Deputy Chairman Peter Cahill.

One of only two group members who have undergone a broad-based election process, the inaugural Chairman is Mackay City Council's nominee, Greg McNeill. John thanked Greg for taking on the position.

John asked, that in the CRG's deliberations, in addition to the various interests members represent, that each person also takes a regional view, keeping in mind that the seaport and the airport service a vast regional area extending from St Lawrence in the south to Bowen in the north and west to the towns of Capella and Clermont and the mining towns. John indicated that the airport and seaport are assets which need to be protected and developed for the whole of the region and for future generations.

John asked for an honest and fair representation by all and that members report back fairly to their respective organisations.

John wished all members well in their deliberations and handed over to Councillor Greg McNeill.

**Welcome by
Councillor Greg
McNeill of Mackay
City Council**

Greg welcomed all to this inaugural meeting and invited all present to personally introduce themselves round the table.

Two apologies were accepted from Ross Dodt and Tony Irelandes.

Following introductions Greg handed over to Greg Mann for a presentation.

**Presentation by
Greg Mann CEO
Mackay Port
Authority**

Greg indicated he is delighted this group has now been formally established and looks forward to achieving mutual goals.

Greg gave a presentation today only covering the Harbour Deepening Project, and Mackay Airport – Australia's Regional Airport of the Year at a future time.

Greg highlighted the Authority now anticipated it may be four to five years before the harbour deepening is required.

Ian Sutton suggested that \$120,000 per vessel saving would be appreciated if it was expressed as a % figure.

A .pdf version of the presentation is attached.

Greg handed over to Scott Keane for his presentation.

**Presentation by
Scott Keane
Manager Projects
& Environment
Mackay Port
Authority**

Scott presented information on the Flora, Fauna, Hydrology and Cultural Heritage Study. A .pdf version of the presentation is attached.

Question & Answer Session

Flood - Volume of material needed – how does that impact?
~900,000 m³ at 3 – 4 m depth 25 hectares full depth, ie half of scenario 2 or scenario 2 at half depth.

Land – future industries?

Yes, the adopted 1993 PDP outlined projected industry use.

How much spare land does MPA not utilise?

Of its 800 hectares, some 27% or 220 hectares has been formally committed to conservation since 1994 and some 200 hectares is under active use. The balance is held for future port needs.

Greg Mann indicated the areas proposed for future dry bulk storage indicating that the Port Development Plan is the MPA's best assessment of the port's projected needs.

Conclusion of Presentations

The Chairman thanked Scott Keane and Greg Mann for their presentations.

A collation of public responses to the FFH&CH report will be sent to all present when available.

Housekeeping Notes

The Chairman asked all members to look at the draft Terms of Reference and come back to the next meeting with their suggestions.

Discussion followed in relation to dates and times for future meetings. The Chairman indicated that meetings should not be any more than two hours in length.

It was decided to get together in the next month for an inspection tour around the port lands to see the areas at first hand.

The Chairman noted that all members will have an equal standing and that there are to be no interjections during the time a person is speaking.

All queries are to be directed though the Chair and an officer may be brought in to respond accordingly.

Tour & Meeting Dates

The agreed Port tour dates are:

- Thursday 13 February at 3.00pm
- Tuesday 18 February at 3.00pm

Please advise Bertha by email of the day you wish to attend the tour on mpa@mpa.qld.gov.au in order for transport to be arranged.

The agreed date for the next formal meeting is Tuesday 18 March at 3.00pm.

Greg Mann advised a special page will be set up on the MPA website at www.mackayports.com for the CRG with contact details for AMSA and all members.

David Aprile suggested full names and addresses for all members would be helpful.

It was agreed that all correspondence will be by email, with an alternative arrangement to be made with Garry Mooney.

It was agreed that agendas will be sent about two working days before the meeting.

Greg Mann outlined the background of the AMSA land, and the inability to undertake any development whilst it remained in active use as a transmitter site.

Proxy

It was recommended that a representative would be preferable if any member is unable to attend the meeting to ensure communication is maintained.

Media

The media are present today and it was agreed that all future meetings will be open, however press releases from the group will be made as a group by the Chairman and not as individuals.

Current PDP and Land Use Plan

Seaport Land Use Plan – where is it at?
With the Government since early 2000. Some discussions have been held with the EPA –modifications have been incorporated and in accord with recent EPA discussions, further amendments are being made. QT will then present documents to Cabinet.

Information CD

A CD was distributed to all present containing .pdf versions of the following:

- Summary report of the Flora, Fauna, Hydrology & Cultural Heritage Study
- Summary Port Development Plan
- Seaport Land Use Plan

Thanks and Close of Meeting

John Taylor thanked Chairman Greg McNeill for a meeting well run.

Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 2.50pm

Next Meeting

3.00pm Tuesday 18 March 2003