

Meeting minutes

Meeting name - Community Consultative Committee (CCC) – Eden Breakwater Wharf Extension Project and Revitalising Eden Program

Date – 24 June 2020

Location – via Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Jenny Symons (Chair), Natalie Godward (Port Authority of NSW), Paige Folta (Port Authority of NSW), Polly Bennett (Port Authority of NSW), Paul Webster (Port Authority of NSW), Andrew Mogg (TfNSW Maritime branch), Scott Baker (Bega Valley Shire Council) and Coral Reynolds (minutes).

Community representatives:

Rob Bain (POEM), Robyn Arthur (Twofold Bay Yacht Club), Jenny Robb (Eden Chamber of Commerce), Richard Lamacraft (Community Member), Leanne Scott (Community Member), Debbie Meers (Cruise Eden), Gail Ward (Eden Tourism) and Mark Bateman (Eden LALC) (partly).

Apologies:

John Aveyard (Community Member) and DPIE.

The meeting opened at 6.03pm.

1. Acknowledgement

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Scott introduced himself and his role as the Community Engagement Coordinator for Bega Valley Shire Council, advised he was responsible for Eden Port/Shire connectivity and was interested in the projects. Natalie noted that she had been working with Scott regarding various aspects of the project re Heritage Interpretation and Scott is not new to the project.

The Chair opened with an acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters of the shire – the people of the Yuin nation and the Monaroo people, and paid respects to elders past and present.

The Chair requested that the meeting used the hand raising function during the meeting and intended to stop for questions after each slide.

2. Conflicts of Interest

There were no new pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest to declare.

3. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

4. CCC Terms of Reference

Paige introduced herself as Communications Manager for Port Authority of NSW and what her role entailed. Paige spoke to the terms of reference, advising that the CCC had initially been a part of the required consultative process for the wharf project, with the coverage being extended to encompass the other two projects. The development of the TOR was informed by DPIE best practice planning guidelines. Further, although Port Authority are leading the coordination and collaboration of the three projects each of the projects will be disseminating information for their own project.

Rob Bain queried TOR in regards to media engagement. Paige clarified that individuals cannot represent themselves with the media as speaking on behalf of the CCC. Acknowledged that members are not precluded from engaging with the media as representatives of their organisations.

Rob noted that it is important to engage with local media as that is one of the main ways the community is kept updated about the projects.

Rob recommended that the CCC issue a communique via some form of media. Paige advised that Port Authority issue media releases, community updates and fact sheets for the project.

6. Eden Cruise Wharf – Upcoming Activities

Natalie advised that:

- A total of 32 cruise ships were booked for the 2019/20. Of these, 4 were cancelled due to bushfires and 10 due to COVID-19. In total 18 cruise ships visited the Port of Eden during the 2019/20 cruise season.
- Currently 22 ships are scheduled to visit Eden during the 2020/21 cruise season.

7. Eden Cruise Wharf - issues arising

Natalie provided an update as follows:

- COVID-19 update:
 - Port Authority is following the most up-to-date information from NSW Health in relation the COVID-19 and our priority is the safety of the community, employees and contractors.

Natalie advised that Eden is well placed being mid-way between Sydney and Melbourne for domestic cruise ships and is optimistic for the next cruise season. Natalie will share information with the CCC and wider community once there is further information available.

Jenny R stated that there is a lot of negative discussion in the community at present and is expecting this to increase once cruise ships can return to Eden re the possible spread of COVID-19. Natalie noted that she will work closely with EVIC to ensure they are kept updated.

8. Eden Cruise Wharf – other

Natalie noted:

- Monitoring of environmental performance – fully compliant with nothing to report.
- Community complaints – none had been received.
- Contact details are as follows:
 - Phone: +61 2 6496 4721
 - Email: enquiries@portauthoritynsw.com.au
 - Website and information found at: <https://www.portauthoritynsw.com.au/port-of-eden/port-services-facilities/eden-wharf/>

The Chair asked if committee members had needed to direct community members to the complaints contact details. It was noted that none had been occurred.

9. Modification to Planning Approval

Natalie discussed the modification to the Planning Approval as follows:

As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, the cruise industry has temporarily stopped operations in Eden. The COVID-19 crisis together with the summer bushfires, have resulted in reduced business activity in the region and subsequent negative economic impacts to the local community.

Port Authority has identified a number of small vessels interested in using the Eden Cruise Wharf. Typically, the demand is for small/medium business operators (eg. fishing boats, tugs).

Allowing these businesses to utilise the Eden Cruise Wharf on days when it is not occupied by a cruise ship will contribute to the creation of jobs and stimulate economic activity in the area.

Port Authority will lodge an application with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to modify the State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) 7734 approval for the Eden Cruise Wharf.

As part of the modification application process Port Authority has consulted with the CCC, EPA, Bega Valley Shire Council and Crown Lands. Comments from stakeholders will be reported and considered in the Modification Assessment Report.

The modification is consistent with the current maritime uses of Snug Cove, which in addition to the Eden Cruise Wharf, includes several jetties that provide for the berthing of vessels similar to those proposed.

Natalie gave a thank you to POEM, EVIC, Eden Chamber of Commerce, ESSCI and Bega Valley Shire Council for their letters of support.

Jenny R asked if there will be a community consultation process to ensure everyone has a chance to make comment should they wish to. Natalie advised there will be a consultation process involved and this will be attached as an Appendix to these minutes.

Andrew Mogg joined the meeting and introduced his role and the upcoming Machinery of Government changes.

It was noted that Gail and Paul joined the meeting and a summary was made by the Chair on what had been discussed so far in the meeting.

Robin asked why the project was originally intended as a cruise ship only wharf. Natalie advised the project progressed as a cruise wharf as that would secure the funding from State, Local and Commonwealth Government to enable it to be built. It was noted that the wharf was always intended for a broader purpose.

10. Eden Welcome Centre update – Port Authority of NSW

Natalie gave an overview of the Eden Welcome Centre Project:

- Major concrete pour undertaken that day – 450 cubic metres with 17 persons working on site.
- Enabling Works were completed in April and construction of the Head Works commenced in May.
- Major construction activities completed to date include:
 - Installation of underground services
 - Completion of final excavation and pouring of concrete blinding layer.
 - Activities planned for the next few months include:
 - Installation of reinforcement and pouring of main concrete floor slab
 - Installation of plumbing and electrical works
 - Preparation/restoration of timber elements
 - Pre-fabrication of timber trusses
 - Installation of structural timbers
 - Block work on perimeter walls.
- The project is on time with overall project completion scheduled for early 2021.

Leanne asked about communicating with stall holders at the cruise markets what was happening with their stalls next cruise season. Leanne asked if it was worthwhile putting up an all weather cover if there is not going to be appropriate room for stallholders inside the Welcome Centre. Natalie advised Port Authority will communicate with Cruise Eden and stall holders in August and this will be discussed at the next CCC meeting in August.

Leanne advised she had seen social media regarding the EVIC moving to the Welcome Centre. Natalie noted that she had also seen the discussion. Jenny R advised that EVIC were unable to go public at this stage with some information and will manage communication with the community and social media channels.

Leanne noted that the community were very concerned about parking and traffic flow at the Port. Natalie noted that the parking and traffic management is subject of discussion and being reviewed.

Jenny R noted that EVIC are in discussion with Council and that the community is aware of the level of discussions that are underway. Jenny R asked if Leanne wanted a separate meeting she would be happy to discuss this.

Natalie discussed the Heritage Interpretation Plan being prepared by The Destination Agency in Pambula (Anthony Osborne) who are working with local historians and an artist known to the region on developing designs that complement the site.

The project team is also coordinating with Council the visual style and language to make sure that there is cohesion between the project and Council.

Currently, the heritage elements are scheduled to be presented to the community for information in July. Natalie advised that what is being proposed is Eden's maritime and indigenous history. Scott advised he will seek feedback from the CCC prior to going out for consultation.

11. Safe Harbour Project update – Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office (MIDO) of Transport for NSW

Andrew gave an update as follows:

- The Minister for Transport and Roads has requested TfNSW go to market for a competitive tender for construction of a fixed panel attenuator to be delivered within budget.
- The Minister has confirmed that the previous design concept for a fixed panel wave attenuator as supported by POEM will be the basis of the tender.
- TfNSW are currently working through the processes necessary to go to market.
- Exact timing is yet to be confirmed.

Rob raised the following few questions:

- Would there be any changes to design 18 that was shared with stakeholders in October 2018? Andrew advised that he will need to seek advice.
- Would the project cost be for D&C costs only or include O&M costs? Andrew noted that there will always be additional costs but is unable to advise re treatment of whole of life costs. Andrew hopeful that he will be able to advise at the next meeting.
- What is the timeline for the project? Andrew advised there is still a number of approval processes and is unable to provide this at this stage.
- If there are surplus funds would this be able to be spent on a marina? Andrew advised there would need to be a separate planning process for this.

Rob advised that given the infrequency of the CCC meetings a communications plan should be developed for the project and the team shouldn't be relying on the CCC as the main forum of communication. Rob noted that there was a meeting held recently which he has repeatedly asked for a record of. Andrew noted it was a meeting with the Minister and he was not present. Rob requested that they be kept informed.

Rob stated that including Whole of Life (WOL) costs in the \$19m construction budget would be completely unacceptable to POEM. In POEM's view, to include WOL costs for the attenuator when (in POEM's these costs have not been included in any other infrastructure projects in the Bega Valley Shire would be highly discriminatory against the Eden community.

12. Harbourside Activation Project update – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Natalie advised that there were no attendees present from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and gave an update as follows:

- The Harbourside Activation Project will explore options for the revitalisation of the Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre site.
- Redevelopment of this mixed-use zone site will include retail and commercial components.
- Future options may include residential, however the focus is on activation at the ground floor to help unlock the town's tourism potential.
- The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is developing concept plans for the precinct.
- Once these plans have been finalised, initial discussions will be held with the current tenant and sub-tenants.

Jenny R advised the CCC that she had been asked to join the Board of the Marine Discovery Centre and that the Board are keen to be involved in discussions as soon as possible and would appreciate a meeting with Property NSW. Natalie advised there would be a meeting with DPIE the next day which Natalie and Polly would be attending and that this would be communicated at the meeting.

Rob stated that the whole activation area is the centrepiece of revitalising Eden and needs to complement other projects and activities. Rob advised that the BP site and Rankin's site should all be taken into consideration and that the wider Eden community should be consulted.

13. Keeping the community informed

Coral advised that over the last few months this has been difficult due to COVID-19 and that the community would be kept informed about the Revitalising Eden Harbour Program via:

- Monthly newsletter
- Project specific factsheets
- Website and social media updates
- Construction notifications (where required)
- 1:1 meetings
- Door knocking
- Community displays

14. Community Feedback

Natalie noted that at the last meeting Leanne had raised the issue of linesmen not wearing gloves. Natalie advised she had consulted with Svitzer who are responsible for the lines work, who stated that it is far more dangerous for linesmen to wear gloves given the ropes are wet and therefore very slippery. Svitzer ensure that linesman wear the WH&S required PPE for undertaking their job.

Rob advised that the Cattle Bay development should be consulted with and there should be an overall strategic plan. The Chair noted that this is not covered in the CCC's Terms of Reference. Scott advised from the Council perspective there is a masterplan that has been designed around the Eden main street with the heritage of Eden considered. Scott stated that if the Council will undertake any further works in Eden consultation will be undertaken with the community in Eden. With regard to an overall strategic plan, Scott identified that Council's town planners may be the most appropriate contact point and undertook to liaise with them and with Rob. Jenny R noted that it's not the cosmetic look of Eden that is the issue it's the strategic land use of the area that is to be considered.

15. General Business

Leanne noted her compassion for POEM regarding the intent of the Safe Harbour project and the complexity of the integration with the development of the wharf and subsequent projects.

16. Next meeting

The proposed next meetings will be held on:

- 5 August 2020: 6pm – 7:30pm
- 4 November 2020: 6pm – 7:30pm

(Note the date of the next CCC meeting was subsequently modified to Wednesday 23 September 2020 5pm-6.30pm).

17. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 7.16pm.