

Meeting Minutes

Meeting name	Eden Cruise Wharf Community Consultative Committee		
Date	25 October 2022	Time	5:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Location	Virtual via Microsoft Teams and in person at the Eden Welcome Centre		
Meeting chair	Jenny Symons		
Attendees	Members of CCC and guests		

Attendees

In person:

Jenny Symons (Chair) – JS

CCC Members

Eric Wolske (Eden Chamber of Commerce) – EW

Clair Mudaliar (Eden Tourism) – CM

Paul Webster (Port Authority) – PW

Natalie Godward (Port Authority) – NG

Jenny Robb (Eden Tourism) – JR

Gail Ward – GW (Community member)

John Aveyard (Community member) – JA

Kalieggh Smerdon (BVSC) – KS

Robyn Arthur (Twofold Bay Yacht Club) – RA

Nicole Holyer (Port Authority) – NH

Mark Bateman (Eden LALC) – MB

Guests

Alexandra King (TfNSW – MIDO) – AK

Sam Isaacs (Port Authority) – SI

John McKenna (Port Authority) – JM

Andrew Dooley (TfNSW - MIDO) – AD

Nathan Penberthy (TfNSW - MIDO) – NP

Doug Walker (MIDO – Safe Harbour Project) – DW

Apologies

Richard Lamacraft (Community member) – *Member*

Leanne Scott (Community member) – *Member*

Rob Bain (POEM) – *Member*

Sara Bennetts (Property NSW – *Guest*

Andrew Heathcote (Property NSW) – *Guest*

Sarah Webster (Property NSW) – *Guest*

2. Acknowledgement of Country (JS)

3. Introductions (JS)

4. Declaration of pecuniary interests (JS)

- Nil

5. Business arising from previous minutes (Jenny)

- Suggestion that we note complaints at each CCC meeting.
 - ACTION COMPLETED: Complaints section added to Port Authority update. NH confirmed.
- Port Authority to engage with local Aboriginal people on Eden Wharf Modification EOI.
 - ACTION COMPLETED: Port Authority met with Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council and Twofold Aboriginal Corporation to discuss engagement opportunities. Representatives from the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council and Twofold Aboriginal Corporation participated in a stakeholder feedback study. NH confirmed. MB noted positive engagement with Port Authority.

6. Port Authority Update

Eden Cruise Wharf – cruise update

- NG provided PA update with number of cruise ships during season.
 - Eden has welcomed 7 cruise ships this season, with 28 yet to visit.
 - Slides capturing visit to be presented (see attached)
 - Pacific Explorer was required to stay overnight on Friday 21 October due to very strong winds and unsafe weather conditions. The current planning approval allows for cruise ships to be berthed after 10pm in extenuating circumstance, including severe weather conditions.
- JA asked about shore excursions.
- NG stated that Pacific Explorer berthed overnight on 21/10 due to extenuating circumstances of severe weather, making it unsafe to leave.
- NG stated that no complaints were received.
- JR stated that locals came down to take photos.
- CM stated that she couldn't hear any noise from her residence.

Action 1: Share cruise activity presentation with CCC.

Complaints

- NH confirmed no complaints through Enquiries inbox / Service NSW

Seating area outside Eden Welcome Centre

- NG stated that seating options sent to CM, EW, DM so the project has commenced.
- JA asked how long until installed.
 - NG stated that it would depend on procurement period for seats, bins etc. and that the CCC will be kept updated.

Eden Mod 3

- SI provided an update on the Modification:
 - Port Authority is preparing an application to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) to modify the current approval for the Eden Cruise Facility primarily to allow larger cruise ships and other vessels to use the Facility.
 - We are on track to submit the Environmental Assessment (EA) before the end of the year.
 - Formal community consultation commenced in August with drop-in sessions.
 - Feedback received will be considered within the EA Report.

- During the consultation in Eden, we spoke with over 50 local people as well as holding a number of face-to-face meetings about proposed changes to the use of the Wharf.
- Feedback from this consultation has been reviewed and to date has fallen into three key areas:
 - the beneficial economic development and employment opportunities it could create for the region,
 - potential environmental impacts and
 - the available infrastructure and services in the area to support more visitors.
- Port Authority is now looking into further understanding the issues raised in the consultation including exploring some in more detail. This will include Port Authority seeking further information from key individuals and stakeholders directly.
- Working closely with the community and understanding the local issues is key to ensuring sustainable and beneficial growth of tourism that delivers economic and social benefits for Eden and the Bega Valley.
- Following EA Report submission to DPE it will be placed on public exhibition by DPE, likely to be early 2023.
- Interested parties will then get an opportunity to review the EA during its public exhibition and submit feedback to DPE. Port Authority will then draft a submissions report responding to issues raised during this stage.
- DPE will consider the submissions, PA's response and will make a determination (likely mid/late next year).
- PA will keep group and broader community updated once we have confirmed dates.
 - JA asked who is determining authority.
 - SI stated it was DPE.

Widening of Weecoon Street

- NH provided an update on the widening of Weecoon Street.
 - Electrical works completed in September and that the next step is to procure a contractor to complete the road widening works on Weecoon St adjacent to the EWC.
- NG stated that the cruise schedule has been provided to the PM and works will be flexible so as to avoid cruise days.
 - DM stated how important it would be to avoid cruise days, especially in February as the busy month.
 - CM requested for school holidays / peak periods to also be avoided.
- JA asked about pothole situation.
 - PW stated that contractor has been engaged to fix potholes and that PA is just waiting for date from contractor.
- PW stated part of widening works budget includes releasing works.
- JA asked if going around Gotcha Bait.
 - PW stated not at this stage.

Action 2: confirm dates for road widening with CCC

7. Snug Cove Marina update

- NP provided an update on Snug Cove Marina update.
 - TfNSW running an EOI process to determine if there is interest in investing in a marina in Snug Cove. A few masterplans are in place that have provided a good base for this work. Govt investment in cruise and Safe Harbour – enabling infrastructure to allow for more to occur. All investment provides a catalyst for further investment in Eden.

- NP stated that TfNSW are about to conclude the market sounding process to gauge their interest, due to complete end of this week.
- Next, they will be calling for EOI wc 31 October from interested parties who have credibility, capability and capacity to develop a marina. Hoping to connect foreshore from cruise wharf, and F&B offerings etc. NP went through presentation and 4 objectives of precinct.
- RA asked for a copy of the presentation. To be provided via Chair.
- KS asked if there has been a good level of interest.
 - NP said there has been good interest.
- KS asked if any of the feedback had changed the scope.
 - NP stated not at this stage.
- JR asked how TfNSW goes to market for something like this.
 - NP stated that TfNSW looks at who could provide solutions and promotes via media releases, tenders, minister, network etc.
- JR asked if it was open to international proponents.
 - NP stated it was open internationally. NP stated that it may or may not include a building etc. and that they haven't put a definition around it as they want to cast the net as wide as possible to bring in innovation.
- KS asked what the divergent position is.
 - NP stated they would have liked to have seen more interest. AD stated interest has been good and that it feels like the time is right to activate the precinct.
- JR stated that the community has been so disappointed for years over several iterations of plans so we need to see some action, and that this was good.
- RA asked if we can assume the EOI is for variety of aspects of the whole precinct e.g., retail, marina etc. so looking at widespread EOI.
 - NP responded yes.
- RA asked has Govt looked at the hardstand area next to diver's ramp over to ocean pool as a hardstand area?
 - NP stated that that decision hasn't been made regarding reclaiming that area and that the EOI area was simply defined more broadly with the removal of the cruise berth box and PA land – all the rest has been included. Then the proponent will need to decide.
- RA asked if the container precinct plays a part in the proposal.
 - NP stated no it does not and that the processes will run in parallel.
- EW stated that the hospitality offering is within area of EOI proposed and they don't want to see it fall away.
 - NP stated that they don't anticipate that being the case however to keep in mind, if EOI is successful ECoC will need to work with proponent regarding the hospitality precinct.
 - EW stated that ECoC had negotiated a 5-year term with Crown Lands and that the businesses in the precinct will need security of term, and also that people need to eat even during construction.
- JA thanked MIDO as the demise of SCMD and associated businesses has created community dismay and resulted in a deeply rooted belief that nothing has been done, therefore the EOI deserves to be widely known throughout town as is terrific.
- JA asked if any of this process had a plan for the future of current jetties / industry in Snug Cove.
 - NP stated there was no plan to move current offering out and that it needs to combine with existing recreational and fishing etc. requirements.
- NP stated that the EOI was aiming to provide will be a home for existing tenants and create a balance.

- JA stated that the EOI needs to be known far more widely in the community and that people need to know details and that people understand processes take time.
- NP asked a question to the CCC re: risk with consultation is no new news and stated that he anticipated that the conclusion of the EOI would have been right time to go back to community – do the CCC agree?
- JR stated that comms should come out regularly and that people are happier to hear little bit than nothing at all – i.e., provide some dot point basic comms, and do it regularly which also takes the pressure off the CCC members who represent communities.
- EW asked to speak about EOI re: hospitality project and asked about SCMDC site and stated that it needs to get this out to wider community and let the community know that something is really happening.
- JR stated, on behalf of Eden Tourism, that EVIC staff are getting upset by constant questions of what is going on and that it's not fair on them. They need a print out of what's happening.
- JA stated that people want to know that something is going on, but also want reassurance that they are going to be told and involved.
- GW asked what is going to happen in next 3 months and can the SCMDC site be cleaned up, fences down etc.?
 - NP stated that this is not TfNSW's yet and therefore they couldn't do anything about it at this stage.

Action 3: Provide a copy of the TfNSW presentation to the CCC.

8. Snug Cove Safe Harbour Project

- DW provided an update on the SHP.
 - All permanent wall piles have been hammer driven, on the western end of wall there are 30 piles sticking up higher than seabed due to shallow rock which now need to be drilled and driven in, therefore it's not the end of the noise – need to add a couple of weeks onto the program but important to get foundations right for wall stability.
 - The SHP is 2/3 way through headstock installation work with precasts coming from Victoria.
 - The first of the precast panels will be installed from wc 31 October, a milestone for the project.
 - Current completion date is 2 March 2023 however it depends how drill and drive campaign goes.
 - They have also finished the first stage of demolition works on mooring jetty (additional scope) to replace all timber piles with steel piles to give jetty a new lease of life and hold larger vessels. The timber in good condition will be recycled and donated to PA to use locally for landscaping works around precinct, to be stored at chipmill in the interim.
- Special interest note: the project team accidentally discovered 2 archaeological relics tangled with 2 old anchors, most likely from 'Lanercrost' sunk off Mowarry in 1872.
 - Heritage NSW are directing TfNSW as to what to do with them.
- CM asked how many panels onsite (DW - 8), how many to be delivered (DW - 53).
 - DW stated that when they come through town, the trucks will need escort vehicles and a TMP - deliveries will be every 2-3 days once start being installed.
 - He stated that there may be some clashes with cruise which will result in 5-10 minute delays but nothing too bad.
- JA asked if it would be finished before the end of cruise season.
 - DW stated yes.

9. Property NSW update (Nicole)

- DPIE – sent apologies.
 - NH read statement from DPIE:
 - PDNSW continues to work on identifying feasible options for the Eden Wharf Building site that will complement the harbour’s tourism attractions and working port functions and deliver economic and community benefits for Eden and the Far South Coast.
- JA asked if DPIE are talking to MIDO.
 - NP stated yes they are.

10. Other business

- JA asked if the EWC external building will be oiled.
 - JM advised it will be done.

Action 4: Update on the EWC exterior to be provided to the CCC.

Proposed next
meeting date

21 February 2023

10. Close of meeting

- There being no further business the meeting was closed at **6.02pm**.