

Meeting minutes

Meeting name	Port of Eden Stakeholder Group		
Date	2 April 2025	Time	5:00-6:45pm
Location	Port Authority Offices Level 1 Eden Welcome Centre, 1 Weecoon Street and online.		
Meeting chair	Larissa Shashkof, Port Authority of NSW		
Minute taker	Port Authority of NSW		
Members	Carina Severs, Clair Mudaliar, Debbie Meers, Deborah Richardson, Gail Ward, Jason Lewington, Jayde Rankin, Jennifer Allitt, Jennifer Drenkhahn, Kaliegh Smerdon, Kent Farrell, Mark Cattanach, Mike Hammond, Miriam Wolstencroft, Nicholas Dunne, Paul Rodney Pincini, Peter Whiter, Robert Whiter, Scott Baker, Annika Leslie		
Port Authority of NSW	Larissa Shashkof, Peter Lipman, Dan O'Connell, Benjamin Dayman, Francisca Alvarez, Colleen Elcham, Jennifer Tai, Alix Carpenter, Jennifer Cook (observer)		
Transport for NSW	Isaac Smith, Adam Milgate, Andrew Dooley		

1. Acknowledgement of country

2. Terms of Reference

Welcome to the first Eden Stakeholder Group meeting which will be chaired by Port Authority. The Group will provide a forum to promote communication, consultation and collaboration between stakeholders. Although the group is not a decision-making or regulatory body; it performs an advisory role.

Port Authority and TfNSW will jointly support the group by providing a meeting chairperson and administrative assistance.

The following information will be published on the Port Authority website

- Terms of Reference
- List of Members
- Meeting Schedule
- Meeting Minutes

Printed copies of the Terms of Reference were also available at the meeting. Draft minutes will be sent to attendees within 10 business days following the meeting.

3. Introduction and apologies

Apologies were received from Jenny Robb, Peter Skelton and Steve Marks. As this was the first meeting of the Port of Eden Stakeholder Group attendees were asked to share their interest in the port and what they hope to get out of the Group. A summary is provided below.

Larissa Shashkof: Larissa is facilitating the group and works in the Community and Stakeholder Relations team at Port Authority.

Peter Lipman: Peter is the Manager of Regional Cruise and looks after the operations of Cruise into Eden Wharf at Port Authority.

Dan O'Connell: Dan is the Senior Manager of Property for the Port Authority with a long history with Eden.

Benjamin Dayman: Ben is the Asset Manager with Port Authority of NSW, responsible for looking after our assets and identifying issues that need fixing and remediation.

Francisca Alvarez: Francisca is the Environmental Planning Officer with Port Authority, looking after the Eden area and compliance.

Colleen Elcham: Colleen is the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager at Port Authority, based in Sydney but involved across all ports.

Jennifer Tai: Jennifer is the Manager of Property for Port Authority, having started in 2024 and visiting Eden multiple times.

Alix Carpenter: Alix is a Senior Manager in the Infrastructure Planning team, developing a precinct plan for Eden.

Isaac Smith: Isaac works for Transport for NSW in the Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office, focusing on the Snug Cove Maritime Precinct initiative.

Adam Milgate: Adam is a Communication and Engagement Manager with Transport for NSW, working on the Snug Cove project.

Annika Leslie: Annika is from Destination NSW, working as a Product Manager for Cruise, Railroad, and Air.

Jayde Rankin: Jayde runs Dive Eden and works for Bega Valley Shire Council, representing personal and business interests.

Jenny Allitt: Jenny is the East Gippsland Fish Care Facilitator and a teacher, passionate about marine life in Twofold Bay.

Deb Meers: Deb is the Manager of Cruise Eden, ensuring the best possible experience for cruise ship guests.

Jennifer Cook: Jennifer is a consultant with the ports team, specializing in place and visitor economies, and is an avid sailor and diver.

Clair Mudaliar: Claire is a councillor with Bega Valley Shire Council, representing the Council and the community, with a family history of using the Snug Cove facility for generations.

Scott Baker: Scott is from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, working as an Economic Development Manager across Eurobodalla and Bega Valley and interested in how the area is activated to its full potential.

Jason Lewington: Tourism Manager for Eden Visitor Information Centre which has welcomed we've had nearly 40,000 people since January.

Mike Hammond: Mike is with Marine Rescue NSW, previously the manager of NSW Maritime transport operations for the South Coast and looks after fostering land rescue volunteers and interested in emergency response.

Mark Cattanach: Mark runs Freedom Charters, a business involved with moorings and pontoons in the area.

Deb Richardson: Deb works at the Eden Community Access Centre, focusing on emergency preparations and has a long history with the Information Centre and Cruise Eden.

Miriam Wolstencroft: Miriam is with the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council, working there for two years and recently moved to Eden and looking forward to discussing opportunities for the area.

Kalieg Smerdon: Kayliegh works at Bega Valley Shire Council, looking after corporate planning and improvement, including development, tourism, and grants.

Lana Wills: Lana works for Port Authority as the cruise coordinator, primarily present on cruise days.

Rob Whiter: Rob has property on the northwest side of the Cove and has been interested in improvements in Snug Cove since moving to the area in 1954.

Jennifer Drenkhahn: Jenny is involved with the Twofold Bay Yacht Club, Marine Rescue Eden, and is currently on the board at the Killer Whale Museum.

Roger Barson: Roger is a commander for Marine Rescue NSW in Eden, with a long history of sailing and diving on the far South Coast.

Carina Severs: Carina is the Manager at the Eden Community Access Centre, running multiple projects to improve the social and economic well-being of the town and surrounding villages.

Kent Farrell: Kent retired in Eden about ten years ago and involved in Port of Eden Marina (POEM) advocating for the wave attenuator.

Paul Pincini: Paul is from Sapphire Coast Bus Lines, managing transport partners for cruise operations and has been involved with Cruise Eden since its inception.

Gail Ward: Gail has been involved with the wharf project since the start as Cruise Eden Coordinator 2009-2013 then on the CCC and the CLG. She lives directly above the wharf precinct.

Peter Whiter: Peter lives near Snug Cove and was previously held a position on the Eden Chamber of Commerce, including two years as president. Runs bespoke Inside the gate tour for cruise passengers.

4. Port Authority of NSW Update

Cruise Operations (Peter Lipman): Addressed recent noise complaints Pacific Adventure (12 March), Royal Princess (15 March) and MSC Magnifica (16 March), Ovation of the Seas (20 March) and proactive measures to reduce them.

Noted additional cruise arrivals due to bad weather/ cyclone activity – Pacific Adventure (12 March) and Ovation of the Seas (20 March) and cancellation of Royal Princess (31 March). Highlighted the record of five vessels in five days in February. Two additional arrivals this season – Celebrity Edge (18 April) and Insignia (18 May).

Advised that Port Authority will purchase additional bollards for passenger safety and clear delineation of paths for coaches and passengers along the wharf.

Action: Port Authority to share complaints number 02 9296 4962 to ensure complaints can be recorded and managed in real time. Further information on Port Authority's Community Complaints Procedure is on [website](#)

Asset Management (Benjamin Dayman): Discussed weather-related issues affecting the welcome centre. Mentioned plans for roof coverings and better management of cruise passengers during wet weather events. Advised that Port Authority is considering options for the next cruise season and will work through details with Cruise Eden.

Environmental Monitoring (Francisca Alvarez): Shared preliminary results from air and water quality monitoring, indicating no exceedances of pollutant criteria being undertaken as part of MOD 3. First quarterly report not yet finalised.

Action: Port Authority will put all monitoring reports on our website and share with the Port of Eden Stakeholder Group when available.

Property and Planning (Jennifer Tai and Alix Carpenter): Raised that Port Authority is commencing the preparation of an Eden Precinct Plan. Emphasised the importance of community input and collaboration with Transport for NSW, Bega Valley Shire Council and the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Highlighted the Plan will establish a strategic growth and land use strategy for Port Authority's land holdings in Snug Cove, while also considering existing uses and future needs and ensure alignment and compatibility with other growth and development initiatives in the location. Considerations and outputs of the process will include improved amenity and offerings for Cruise visitors and measures to attract the community to the location.

Website and Community Grants Program (Larissa Shashkof): Shared that Port Authority launched a new website in March. Includes an Around the Ports section for Eden to feature information on Eden. Encouraged members to have a look at the new website and share feedback via the online survey.

Discussed a new Community Grants to be launched in April. Advised that applications close in late May. Community organisations can apply for grants between \$2,000 to \$15,000.

Action: Port Authority will share information on the Community Grants with all members and stakeholders to share with your networks.

5. Transport for NSW – Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office Update (Isaac Smith and Andrew Dooley)

Provided an overview of the Snug Cove Maritime Precinct.

Project Objectives:

1. Increase capacity for local and visiting vessels to safely moor in Snug Cove, thereby enhancing Eden's reputation as a boating and tourist destination.
2. Support tourism and boating jobs growth in South-East NSW and socio-economic development of Eden and the Bega Valley.
3. Facilitate complementary public and private sector investment in tourism, additional moorings and associated maritime services and facilities.
4. Protect and enhance the unique natural environment, culture and heritage of Snug Cove and its surrounds, and encourage public connection to it.

Scope: Boating facilities with up to 79 vessel berths, fuel supply, sewer pump-out, and services. Public domain improvements including landscaping, car park upgrades, and pedestrian connectivity.

Planning and Approvals: Summary of the planning approvals that are now in place for the project enabling it to be ready for delivery (subject to funding).

Funding: Shared that TfNSW had been unsuccessful in the grant application to the Commonwealth's Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program. Feedback on the grant was that the project had strong support from government and maritime industry groups but lacked broader community support and linkages.

Next Steps: Members questioned if the project would be taken back to the market, and TfNSW advised that they are reviewing funding contributions, and potential private sector investment. Emphasis on the need for widespread local community support to strengthen future funding applications.

Action: TfNSW presentation to be distributed with the meeting minutes which includes a color-coded map of the area with organisations responsible for each area for public knowledge.

6. Bega Valley Shire Council Update Council Updates (Kaliegh Smerdon)

Vision and Growth Platform updated by Council: A key component of Sapphire Coast Destination Marketing's (SCDM) tourism marketing contract with the Council, which commenced in July 2024, was to update the Sapphire Coast Vision and Platform for Growth (VPG). The development and publication of this document offer tourism stakeholders a clear understanding of the region's key attributes, target markets, visitor profiles, current destination positioning, and focus areas for growth and investment.

MOU between Council, Eden Tourism and Port Authority: in under negotiation for the continuation of financial support for the Cruise Coordinator and continued collaboration between the parties. The MOU also covers Council responsibilities for waste management and toilet cleaning, with increased servicing on cruise days.

Food shipping containers: Council has provided advice to the proponent regarding their responsibilities. We understand the Chamber are still seeking qualified trades to assist with delivering the works.

Eden Roadworks of interest: May/June after end of cruise season- contractor to deliver

- Footpath repair- on Imlay Street- where pines have lifted the path
- Imlay Repairs- Chandos St to Albert Terrace- pavement renewal, minor kerb and gutter, water main renewal

- Road pavement renewal between Eden Marine and Aslings Beach Rd
- Barclay St - box culvert replacement

Cattle Bay Marina: Project has an approved DA that is set to expire in July 2025. Council is not clear on the developers plans for cessation or extension of this approval. Remediation works (separate to the DA) are progressing well but not complete as yet.

Eden Harbour Quarter: DA is still under assessment. Project details can be obtained through the Application Tracker. Bega Valley Shire Council - DA Online

Chair installation: on Albert Terrace not yet installed as previously advised- assessing options for accessibility and safety. Members suggested getting in touch with the family who made the bequest for the chair.

Council will continue to provide integration for upcoming Port Authority precinct plan work, TfNSW marina plans, Eden LALC land planning. Reinforced that connecting with Council owned land in the road reserve is essential.

Clarifying the Council contribution of \$750k to TfNSW was reinvesting an existing State Government liability for the wharf extension project. Council originally committed to \$2m to the wharf extension project. We only paid \$1.25m and hadn't been invoiced for multiple years for the remaining amount so we requested a reallocation of that liability to the marina project.

7. Questions and General business

Members discussed the following

- Emphasis on the importance of community advocacy for the Snug Cove Maritime Precinct project. Encouragement for the community to voice their support to local and state representatives to strengthen future funding applications.
- Moorings: Clarification on the management and allocation of swing moorings in Snug Cove and surrounding areas. Discussion on the demand for marina berths and the process for reallocating moorings to those on the waiting list.
- Waste Oil Recycling Facility: Request for a meeting by Port Authority to discuss the next steps for the waste oil recycling facility with TfNSW (Regional Harbour Manager and Asset Manager), which was closed due to environmental impacts.
- University of Wollongong Involvement: Interest from the University of Wollongong in participating in future developments in Snug Cove.
- Integration and Coordination: The need for continued integration and coordination among different government agencies and stakeholders to ensure cohesive development plans for Snug Cove.

Next meeting date: 5:00pm – 6:30pm, 25 June 2025