

Purpose: Inner Harbour Community Liaison Group meeting

Date:	21 May, 2024	Time:	1700hrs
Location:	Fremantle Sailing Club, Fremantle		
Chair:	Neil Stanbury	Minute-taker:	Neil Stanbury
Attendees:	Neil Stanbury - Fremantle Ports Jane Edwards- Fremantle Ports Sami Zouad - Fremantle Ports Mark Woodcock - Fremantle Society Mary Rose Baker - FICRA Shirley Burbidge - Fremantle Volunteer Heritage Guides Alison Evison - Samson Precinct Don Whittington - Fremantle Park Association Gerry McGill - North Fremantle Precinct Frank Mofflin - City of Fremantle Peter Scott - Fremantle Arts Centre Precinct John Dowson - Fremantle Society Lisa Barnes - South Fremantle Precinct Gina Blakemore - South Fremantle Precinct Felicity Newman - Hilton Precinct Group	Apologies:	Sue Clark - Notre Dame Gill Harrison - Maritime Museum Roy Lewisson - White Gum Valley Precinct Andrew McPhail - Town of East Fremantle Freda Ogilvie - Noongar Elder Brian Stoddart Peter Grant - Artsource Ed Blackley - White Gum Valley Precinct Jason Banks - Rottnest Island Authority Annette Harwood - Leeuwin Ocean Adventure

Minutes

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting at 1710hrs and gave an acknowledgement of country, outlining a range of activities being undertaken by Fremantle Ports in recent months on the topic of reconciliation. These included recruitment of a new Indigenous Advisor, painting of a cruise gangway by artist Jade Dolman, welcoming Curtin University students for a mentoring

day, conducting a welcome to country prior to maintenance dredging, internal cultural awareness training, and launch of the Fremantle Ports Manjaree Indigenous Art Competition.

Mr Zouad said a focus of Fremantle Ports' reconciliation action plan was creating opportunities for Indigenous people, building relationships with key stakeholder groups and the port would move to its second RAP towards December 2024.

Mr Zouad discussed the tragic passing of Fremantle Ports CEO Michael Parker since the last meeting had occurred, detailing Mr Parker's strong contributions as a leader over three years with Fremantle Ports.

The group was briefed on current port trade figures from April, which showed mostly strong performance in both the Inner and Outer Harbours, with increased vehicle imports and container movements key features in the figures. Fremantle Ports had budgeted for a 2% increase in trade this financial year and current performance was good news for the WA economy.

Mr Stanbury spoke to a current public consultation period regarding vehicles on South Mole, explaining that illegal camping and anti-social behaviour on South Mole had led to the mole's closure to the public on March 17th. It had recently reopened to the public, initially for pedestrians and vehicles only. Public submissions were welcomed until June 6 on the port's website and a public information session would be held at the WA Maritime Museum on Wednesday, May 29. General discussion occurred regarding the issue of illegal camping both on the port and also in the community generally. It was stated by one member that the problem was 'moving around' due to inadequate facilities for campers, with Cockburn and Coogee and White Gum Valley also experiencing the same issues.

Mr John Dowson of the Fremantle Society recommended Fremantle Ports explore further opportunities to do interpretation signage on South Mole about its significant history on a number of themes. ACTION - Mr Stanbury said that Fremantle Ports would look at such opportunities.

An update was given on the recent maintenance dredging of the Inner Harbour in April/May over 21 days, in which 60,000 cubic metres of sediment was removed from the harbour floor and dumped in Gage Roads in an approved site. All permits and approvals for this work were obtained and it had gone successfully. There would be further smaller dredging periods in each of the next four years, each for 5000 cubic metres. The dredging was necessary to ensure large ships could still safely utilise the harbour.

Members were updated on cruising figures season-to-date. It was suggested that Fremantle Ports look at whether more gangways could be provided for cruise ships, to hasten disembarkation. Fremantle Ports committed to reporting back on this matter at the next meeting. Mr Woodcock of the Fremantle Society recommended Fremantle Ports use its influence and connections to better promote Fremantle to incoming cruise passengers, by placing a speaker on ships coming to Fremantle. ACTION - Fremantle Ports to review opportunities for this, if possible.

There was extensive discussion regarding the Public Transport Authority's plans to remove the decommissioned overpass on the rail reserve near the passenger terminal. This was likely to

occur in August, 2024. Mr Zouad said Fremantle Ports was continuing its discussions with the PTA, Government and the City of Fremantle regarding future accessibility options for the passenger terminal, in the context of the Future of Fremantle project.

ACTION - It was asked why cruise ships not permitted into New Zealand due to hull biosecurity issues were allowed into Fremantle. Fremantle Ports committed to finding out more and reporting back on this matter.

Mr Stanbury gave an update on recent Victoria Quay activations, including the Distinguished Gentleman's Motorcycle Ride, James Cameron talk, Harbour Master Classic run event and the Slip Street Carnivale.

It was noted by Fremantle Ports that the Swan River Crossing project was imminent and the small craft pens near the Fremantle Traffic Bridge had been demolished recently. The Fremantle Society inquired if the re-use of old jarrah timber had been raised with the Fremantle Bridge Alliance and Fremantle Ports stated it had raised this matter with the FBA, with a positive response, however no details about plans had been shared at this time. ACTION - Fremantle Ports to invite a Fremantle Bridge Alliance presenter to the next meeting.

Mrs Jane Edwards outlined what community groups and initiatives had been supported by Fremantle Ports in recent decisions regarding sponsorship. These included Design Freo, Notre Dame Citizen Science marine litter monitoring research, Globetown and the Cockburn Community and Cultural Council Youth Arts Festival.

Mr Stanbury reported on two recent incidents at the port - a line boat capsized at North Quay and a bike crash into a fence near Gate 2. Fremantle Ports had investigated the former and improved safety signage at the latter.

The meeting closed at 6.50pm. No date or time was set for the next meeting.