

Purpose: Inner Harbour Community Liaison Group meeting

Date:	Tuesday 19 November, 2024	Time:	1700hrs
Location:	Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle		
Chair:	Neil Stanbury	Minute-taker:	Neil Stanbury
Attendees:	Maryrose Baker- Fremantle Inner City Residents Association Michael Barker - Fremantle Shipping News Shirley Burbidge - Fremantle Volunteer Heritage Guides Association John Downson - Fremantle Society Alison Evison - Samson Precinct Ann Forma - North Fremantle Precinct Peter Grant - Art Source Emma Livesey - Hilton Precinct Group Cr Andrew McPhail - Town of East Fremantle Daniela Melo - Hilton Precinct Group Paul Reiffer - Maritime Heritage Group Eric Wilson - Port Beach Users Group & Polar Bears	Apologies:	Jane Edwards - Fremantle Ports Roel Loopers - Freoview Luke Gunson - Notre Dame Kavi Gupta - City of Fremantle Lawson Dickson - Leeuwin Mark Woodcock - Fremantle Society Peter Scott - Fremantle Arts Centre Precinct

Minutes

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting at 1710hrs and made an Acknowledgement of Country.

The group was briefed on current port trade figures from October by General Manager SPP Sami Zouad, which showed mostly strong performance for the month and year so far, though with a reduction in trade year to date, compared with budget, for the Kwinana Bulk Terminal. Container, motor vehicle and fuel trade through Kwinana Bulk Jetty had all been strong. KBT's performance had been impacted by an outage of the ship loader on the jetty.

Mr Zouad updated the group on the recent announcement by Government to commit a further \$273m for program definition on Westport, which included land acquisition. Mr Zouad said a Westport Business Case Summary document was publicly available online and Government would make final decisions around the project in the future. Mr Zouad briefed the group on trade forecasts taken into account by Westport, as well as issues facing Fremantle Port. The cost of inaction in future years had been identified by Westport. Transition and timing were discussed as well as the preferred commercial model for Westport. There was significant discussion regarding trade forecasts and also the implications for the Future of Fremantle plans. Members of the group stated that the Government had not to this point made clear its intentions for Future of Fremantle, in the context of its Westport announcement and that clarity would be appreciated by the public.

John Dowson from the Fremantle Society raised questions on notice regarding the projected growth in container numbers and Fremantle Ports' position on moving to the Outer Harbour along the timeline outlined by Westport. Mr Dowson also inquired about the future intentions for cars, scrap metal, sheep and bulk goods trades. Mr Zouad said Fremantle Ports agreed with the Westport container trade projections and conclusions that the Inner Harbour, KBT and KBJ would all face pressures to support increasing trade in the decades ahead.

Mr Stanbury updated the group on the progress by the Leeuwin Foundation to repair the sail training ship STS Leeuwin, following the damage caused by the container ship Maersk Shekou. Mr Stanbury said the Leeuwin was indemnified, Fremantle Ports had provided premises at North Quay for works by Leeuwin, and the foundation anticipated the ship would be sailing again in 12 months. The foundation would hold an open day at B Berth on 7 December.

Mr Stanbury played a video about the successful Maritime Day event at the Fremantle Passenger Terminal on 2 October as well as showed a series of photographs. The event attracted around 8000 people, had over 80 exhibits and Fremantle Ports are very pleased with the day. Members of the group were unanimous that it had been successful, appreciated by families and the best Maritime Day yet held.

Mr Zouad briefed the group on recent planning for Victoria Quay, including the progression of a Request for Proposals process for bays A and B of the Port Workshops, the WA Maritime Museum forecourt enhancement project and the Bathers' Beach connector project that would follow next year. Discussion took place about the negative results from the demolition of the footbridge near Beach Street and the deleterious effects of this on cruise passengers. Mr Zouad said that this feedback would be raised with the Public Transport Authority. He said that connectors with the city to Victoria Quay were very important, with the highest priority being Cliff Street, followed by a crossing near the railway station, then the passenger terminal. Mr Zouad committed to consultation with the public regarding any Cliff Street changes. Mr Barker from the Fremantle Shipping News asked what had become of the Future of Fremantle (FOF) Committee. The group understood the working group had been disbanded with no communications of the outcomes. Mr Zouad took an action to request the FOF committee might present at a coming IHCLG meeting.

Mr Stanbury outlined upcoming Victoria Quay activations between now and March 2025.

Ms Sally Swingler detailed the community organisations supported with community investments by Fremantle Ports in the recent three months. A wide range of organisations had received grants for cultural, sporting, education and environmental initiatives or events. Fremantle Ports had recently conducted three special port walks in support of Design Week Freo.

Ms Swingler discussed recent complaints and incidents - the result of marine quality testing in harbour waters, in which case all testing met the required environmental standards. Ms Swingler said a complaint had been received about one of the two Roundshot HD cameras being faulty. This camera was at Cantonment Hill and was being considered for replacement. 511,000 camera views had taken place since January 1, which was considered a high number.

In the general discussion questions were raised about the success of the South Mole re-opening, the chance of extending parking at B Shed, PTA's pedestrian overpass at Parry Street and forecasts for the arrival of cruise ships.

Mr Stanbury said the the Swan River Crossings Team would present at the next meeting.

There were no items of general business. The meeting closed at 6.30pm. The next meeting would be held in February or March, with a firm date to be set and circulated.