

Meeting Number	22
Date	Thursday 23 rd September 2021 at 5:30pm, The Western Hotel Port Augusta
Attendees	Kerry Mudge (PAO), Tom Smith (PAO), Monique Smith (PAO), Robin Sharp, Mandy Jordan, Brian Reich, John Miller, Via Video Link – Travis Dymmott (EPA)
Apologies	Sophie Martin (EPA), Kylie Ritter, Reno Cimarosti, Michelle Coles, Claire Wiseman (RDO), Tracy Freeman (Dan van Holst Pellekaan’s office)
Visitors	

1. Welcome and Introduction

Monique opened the meeting at 5:40pm and welcomed the group as well as noting apologies as listed above and commenced meeting with Acknowledgement of Country.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from the meeting held on 14th September 2020 had not been previously circulated until this meeting. Members reviewed minutes and were accepted.

3. Introduction of Port Augusta Operations Team

Kerry introduced Port Augusta Operations staff members residing in Port Augusta. Tom Smith – Construction Manager overseeing engineering, procurement and construction activities. Providing site supervision and implementing the local procurement and employment strategy along with commissioning and transitioning the operational team. Monique Smith – Liaison Officer is the company representative and point of contact for community, service providers and stake holders. Increasing public awareness of PAO’s development and creating opportunities for the local workforce.

4. Environmental Management

Succession ecology shows the program from 2017 – 2021 is providing an increase in plant density and visible plant cover. Wildlife on site is evident, with tracks, scats and animal use showing a good eco system. During recent survey birds of prey and a kangaroo were observed. Dust suppression will be used in the coming months focussing on poor performance areas including polishing ponds and borrowing pit. PAO’s has two water carts and operators available during the summer months.



2017



2021

5. Construction Update

Office and crib rooms have been delivered from Leigh Creek. Detailed engineering construction schedule involving over 30 engineers for completion in December. There has been a 6-month delay in project completion due to challenging ground conditions. Demolition works to commence in October and procurement to commence in 1st quarter of 2022.

Tom spoke about the opportunities available to South Australian contractors for design and management and the opportunities for the local work force in a myriad of positions. Everything from fixed plant, boilermakers, scaffolding, plumbing, cladding. PAO want to obtain steel from Whyalla. Labour forecast hasn't been done as yet, but once the procurement packages have been completed a list of positions will be available.

6. Port Operating Agreement.

Kerry spoke about negotiating port boundaries with the State Government, the need to demonstrate that it can be operated safely and that PAO are capable of being a port operator. Developing series of rules and regulation for the operation of Port Playford. There will be a boundary turning circle for the vessel enabling it to berth against the wharf. The only impact on fishing will be the times the vessel is berthing.

7. Transshipment Route

Kerry raised that there are two foreseen problematic points on the 28nm transshipment route. One where it narrows down to less than 150m in length and another where it shallows up to a depth of 6-7metres. There will be ongoing tidal monitors and an updated survey to manage and monitor depths. PAO's have enlisted the Australian Maritime College who are developing an Upper Spencer Gulf simulation. AMC's simulator will provide a full mock-up of a transshipment vessel and its surroundings. AMC will simulate various vessel models transiting in real time, and across a range of environmental conditions, using current, wind, tide and wave data.

8. Offshore Transshipment Points

Kerry spoke about recent surveys that showed 2 transshipment points 28nms as opposed to the original 32nms that would allow a cape size vessel to be anchored at 18m depths. Australian Maritime College simulator shows two safe areas that enable the ship to be loaded with 175,000 tonnes of ore and able to stand tidal currents. PAO's currently planning a third development application which will be submitted in October regarding the new transshipment points.

9. Community Sponsorship and Donation Program.

Monique spoke about PAO's implementation of a sponsorship and donation program in 2022. Port Augusta Operation's recognises the importance of attracting and supporting events that deliver benefit to the region. Seeking input from the Community Reference Group Members into the design and strategies to ensure we create a locally appropriate program that will include both economic and social development.

Q. Question around the removal of native vegetation

A. roughly 5% of the development area has native vegetation of which exists due to duplication of plant life from nearby vegetation. Tom reiterated that minimal further native vegetation clearance will be required and that there are two areas that PAO cannot clear in relation to shrubs and bushes. Proposed vegetation clearance areas follow the narrow linear path of the iron ore conveyors

Q. Question raised in regard to the speed of the transfer vessel going past the 280 Shacks. At what speed would the transfer vessel be travelling and would PAO's consider going slower through this area?

A. The transfer vessel will travel at 10knts loaded and 13 knts unloaded and 5knts at marker points between Port Augusta and the transshipment point.

Q. What is the extent of the bow wave that could be created from the movement of the transfer vessel.

A. All preliminary modelling and investigation show there will be little bow wave. Continued updates as part of the development application will be provided when the design and building of the transfer vessel is commissioned.

Q. How long will it take to load the transfer vessel?

A. 4 hours to load, 4 hours to travel to OTP, 4 hours to unload and 3 hours to travel back to wharf.

Q At what point will you start working on the tip pocket?

A. Tip pocket – Roof will need to be taken off and everything taken out. It is a very complex engineering design as coal transfer is very different to iron ore. Currently investigating ground improvement measures and planning on minor demolition.

10. Any other business

It is Port Augusta Operations plan to increase the level of community engagement as the project advances. Now that Monique and Tom are living in Port Augusta information to the broader community will be provided. Possible tours to the site at Port Playford were flagged.

11. Meeting Closed

Monique thanked those in attendance and closed the meeting at 6:50pm

Next Meeting Scheduled for Thursday 2nd December at 5:30pm