

Meeting minutes

Meeting name - Community Consultative Committee (CCC)
Eden Breakwater Wharf Extension Project and Revitalising Eden Program

Date – Wednesday 2 March 2022

Location – Eden Welcome Centre and via Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Jenny Symons (Chair) - JS
Doug Walker (MIDO) - DW
Brendan Dick (MIDO) - BD
Mick Wilkinson (Austral) - MW
Robin Arthur (Twofold Bay Yacht Club) - RA
Rob Bain – (POEM) - RB
John Aveyard (Community Member) - JA
Clair Mudaliar (Eden Tourism) - CM
Eric Wolske (Eden Chamber of Commerce) - EW
Richard Lamacraft (Community Member) - RL
Gail Ward (Community Member) - GW
Mark Bateman (Eden LALC) - MB
Debbie Meers (Cruise Eden) - DM
Leanne Scott (Community Member– part) - LS
Paul Webster (Port Authority) - PW
Natalie Godward (Port Authority) - NG
Marina Draper (Port Authority) - MD

Apologies:

Sara Bennetts, Sara Webster, Andrew Heathcote, Ben Frazier (Property and Development NSW)
Dr Alice Howe – AH (Director, Community Environment and Planning at Bega Valley Shire Council)

1. Acknowledgement

The Chair (JS) opened with an acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters of the shire – the people of the Yuin nation and the Monaroo people, and paid respects to elders past, present and emerging

2. Declaration of pecuniary interests

MB stated ELALC have engaged with Safe Harbour project.

3. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

4. Introductions and apologies

- Representatives from MIDO (DW, BD) and Austral (MW) were introduced.
- MD noted that Property NSW are an apology and any enquiries on the former Wharf Building Site at 253 Imlay St Eden, should be sent to Property & Development NSW directly at PDNSW_Projects@property.nsw.gov.au.
- The project webpage is up to date and is updated as soon as any new information is available. <https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/housing-and-property/divisions/property-and-development-nsw/advisory-and-transactions/eden-wharf-building-site>. PDNSW will meet separately with the Eden

Chamber of Commerce regarding their hospitality project which they were recently successful in achieving funding for.

5. Safe Harbour Project – Transport for NSW (Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office)

- Over the past few months Austral construction has mobilised to site, the temporary load out jetty is the main access point.
- Project has taken delivery of piles from overseas; a complex operation coordinated well and safely. Half of the piles are being stored on land, the other half on a barge at anchor in Snug Cove
- DW noted there has been some setbacks due to procurement and global shipping issues and project is waiting to hear about delays with piling. DW stated that hopefully within next couple of weeks they will be piling into the seabed, there are 127 piles to be installed. The concrete pre-casts are being manufactured in Sale and will be delivered within a few months, and there is also a 400 tonne jack up barge coming from WA over the coming weeks.
- Once the full fleet is here, WIN News will be doing a media story on the project. DW noted an additional scope of work that isn't part of original contract is to replace some infrastructure on mooring jetty including work on the lower-level landing and replacing approximately 1/3 piles.
- MW – noted that within the marine mobilisation the crane barge is currently stuck in Brisbane River, awaiting confirmation before it can depart, and the jack-up barge departed Port Walcott in WA enroute south to Eden but currently sheltering in lee of Dirk Hartog Island.
- RA – note he was surprised about the replacement of piles on skinny wharf and asked how the project team chose the amount for replacement. DW stated there had been a structural assessment undertaken on wharf to identify piles that are dilapidated. These were identified mainly on the western side and lower-level landing. Beyond that, pile replacement would take place as far as budget permits. DW also stated that undertaking these works while Austral are in situ eliminates additional costs of procuring another contractor.
- RA asked if any consideration had been given to the design of a possible marina inside of the attenuator and where it would impact on skinny wharf. DW stated that this wasn't in scope for the Safe Harbour Project. NG stated there had been and continues to be no state government commitment to build a marina.

6. Inter-agency collaboration

- JA stated there is a much bigger issue with Snug Cove as a whole being that there seems to be no overall vision. He stated concern that there are 4 NSW Government agencies (NG corrected as 3 NSW Government agencies) with input into Snug Cove and there appears to be no overall direction or supervision, and furthermore no opportunity for Eden community to have input.
- JA stated that when the cruise wharf was being built, the community had opportunity to have input however this has now evaporated and while it isn't the responsibility of Port Authority, it is important that we have something that is coordinated with community input.
- LS reiterated JA's point and stated community needs a whole-of-government approach
- MD agreed that the concerns raised by LS were valid and suggested we continue to discuss a way to bring about a collaborative approach and that extraordinary meetings such as this one, can always be requested by any CCC members and working together is in our collective best interests.

7. Terms of Reference (ToR) for Community Consultative Committee

- MB stated there had been some confusion around the revised ToR regarding its potential and function.
- MD stated that Port Authority had proposed scaling the CCC back to cruise operations, however CCC feedback clearly was opposed to this and members expressed a desire to open it up to add all agencies at the table.
- MD stated this needed to be included in the ToR so all are held accountable.
- MB reiterated the need for this otherwise community expectations would not be filled, and the group would not be able to solve problems.
- JA stated it was important to recognise the difficult position Port Authority is in given they aren't responsible for the whole port and other agencies. However, an overall viewpoint and two-way communication is doable so please go ahead and do it.
- MB stated that each participant needs to represent their own bodies and that NSW Government agencies should be empowered to not work in silos. GW requested that Community Access Centre be represented on the CCC however EW stated that he sits on the Community Access Centre committee and therefore represents them, in addition to Eden Chamber of Commerce.

- MB suggested that CCC members should submit questions prior to meetings to avoid questions being taken on notice. MD noted that Port Authority will take on board all comments from CCC.
- MD stated that the previous CCC meeting included a discussion about the purpose of the reference group and that keeping the CCC as an opportunity for all agencies involved to speak and get feedback together would be a great outcome.
- GW stated that following the last CCC meeting a number of members wrote emails indicating their preference to keep the CCC group as is with all agencies coming in together.
- GW also stated that it can take a long time to receive a response from government agencies however there is a tight timeframe with the hospitality precinct.
- GW suggested that CCC meetings need to meet more frequently because there is so much going on and 3-monthly is too far apart.
- MD stated that Port Authority had heard the CCC members loud and clear with respect to including all NSW Government agencies. MD stated that Port Authority can't speak on behalf of other Government agencies however Port Authority will look at the ToR and the concerns of CCC members. Port Authority understands that looking at precinct as a whole is of high importance for members of the CCC.

8. Snug Cove Marine Discovery Centre (SCMDC) site

- LS stated that she completely agrees with JA's comments and noted that the one missing link is community consultation which is not occurring. LS noted that it has been over 12 months since the SCMDC site was emptied however the community doesn't know what is going on, and that it isn't unfair or unreasonable for the community to have input into the agency making the decisions.

***LS was having trouble hearing the meeting. The rest of the CCC members, both online and at the Welcome Centre, were able to hear her comments and many members of the group echoed and agreed with what she was saying. ***

- EW provided the history of the Hospitality Precinct project which started in August 2020 after the building closed down and 3 community meetings were called, the resolution of which being that Chamber would pursue funding for medium term solution to provide shipping containers to form a Hospitality Precinct.
- EW stated that Eden Chamber were successful on their second grant funding application and have obtained \$685,000 to build the hospitality precinct which will include 4 x fitted shipping containers, seating and weatherproof shading.
- EW stated the Chamber were originally considering use of the MIDO space adjacent to toilet blocks for the hospitality precinct however, have since contacted all relevant state government agencies with a view to securing the SCMDC space and obtaining a DA from Bega Valley Shire Council.
- EW stated that that they will discuss the project with DPE and other concerned agencies next week, that the community has been kept informed throughout and this will continue as Chamber intends to extend the meeting invitation to the CCC. EW stated that this was the starting point for progressing what is long-term usage of site.
- RA stated that that a missing point is still that there is a big gap in that there is a need for a community group to look at Snug Cove in totality.
- CM stated that the shipping container Hospitality Precinct was part of a plan which included food trucks in the short-medium term, and a long-term plan for continual and ongoing lobbying for a new building to replace the SCMDC.

9. Landscaping at Snug Cove

- NG provided an update on the landscaping plan for Snug Cove which is a collaboration of Port Authority, MIDO, DPE and Bega Valley Shire Council and would include safety considerations, potential extension of the pedestrian footpath, seating and soft landscaping.
- NG stated that once budgets are determined, the CCC would be updated and stakeholders would be consulted for input.

10. Cruise restart

- NG provided a cruise update stating the federal ban was extended until 17 April and that there was confidence this would not be extended again which would hopefully result in some cruise visitation over Winter and a resumption of the regular cruise season from October 2022, with parameters in place. NG ensured that the CCC would be updated as more certainty in cruise resumption was achieved.

11. General Business

- GW thanked MD for the way she has responded to all individually and collectively.

12. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 6.30 pm. Next meeting scheduled for **Wednesday 13 April at 5 pm** and will focus on Port Authority of NSW business (with invitations for other relevant government agencies to attend).

DRAFT