

PORT OF APOLLO BAY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: Conference Room - Nelson St, Apollo Bay

CM Ref: F18/1465

Date: Tue 9 May, 2023

Time: 12:30pm-1:30pm

MINUTES

Version: 1.0

ATTENDEES:

Cath Olive - GORCAPA	Bill Gross – Apollo Bay Community Representative
Jesse Morrow – Apollo Bay Sailing Club	Frank Castles – Colac Otway Shire
Peter Biddle – Apollo Bay Ocean Rescue	Marcus Pola – Colac Otway Shire
Markus Nolle – Apollo Bay Fishermen’s Coop	Fiona Waddington – Colac Otway Shire
John Marriner – Apollo Bay Community Representative	Gwyneth Cowley – Colac Otway Shire (as observer)
Wayne Diffey – Community (Recreational Fishers & Boaters)	Mayor Chris Potter – Councillor, Colac Otway Shire
	Cr Graham Costin – Councillor, Colac Otway Shire

MINUTES: Lisa Healey – Colac Otway Shire

APOLOGIES: Anthony Alfrenko – GORCAPA
Mark Davies – GORCAPA
Russell Frost – Community (Commercial Fishers)

AGENDA ITEM 3: CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES	Action #
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted. 	
AGENDA ITEM 4: TRANSITION OF PORT FROM COS TO GORCAPA	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to Country. Welcome to Gwyneth Cowley present as observer from COS (newly appointed as Customer Experience Coordinator) and Cath Olive (GORCAPA Director Infrastructure & Planning). The formal transition of management of the Port, in agreement with DoT, from COS to GORCAPA is expected to be finalised in late 2024, ahead of the 2025 deadline. Agreements need to be established with respect to the various projects underway/funded at the Port prior to the transition. Staffing as at the time of transition is to roll over as part of the transition. The Port Manager position is currently being advertised by COS with FW in the Acting Port Manager role. The interview panel will include one representative from GORCAPA along with two reps from COS. Applications close in approx. 2 weeks. 	<p>#1</p> <p>#2</p>
AGENDA ITEM 5: FEES AND CHARGES UPDATE FOR 2023-2024	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The COS draft budget was approved last week including new, proposed fees and charges for the Port (as shared on screen in the meeting). The group is encouraged to make feedback via the COS website – open for public comment until 5 June 2023. FW advised that the proposed fees are as per a plan developed four years’ ago which is based on the Portland pricing model (to be equivalent or less than fees in Portland, noting that the berths at Portland are not secured). Changes to slip occupancy (storage) fees were highlighted – a fee increase is proposed for smaller vessels with the fee for larger vessels proposed to stay the same (the original proposal to Council was to reduce slip storage fees for 15.1m-20m vessels from \$248 to \$180). The changes were proposed to make the fees for using the slip more equitable across vessels of different sizes. The group are encouraged to make feedback via the COS website in the coming weeks. 	
AGENDA ITEM 6: SWING MOORING ANNUAL INSPECTION/COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FW advised that repairs to the swing moorings have been delayed and will commence once depth maintenance works are completed – expected that the Port team will undertake the works in late May/early June. 	
AGENDA ITEM 7: LADDER AT TAMBO BAY’S BERTH (ABO32)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MP advised that the Tambo Bay ladder has been lengthened as requested with these works now complete. 	
AGENDA ITEM 8: UPDATE ON PORT CONDITION AND CURRENT PROJECTS AT THE PORT	
<p><u>Structure A and Sheet pile wall (Structure D) remediation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tender for Section A repairs is closing on 21 May 2023 – this was funded separately as urgent works. Noted that Section A is badly undermined. 	

- The Design and Construct contract for Section D has been updated and the funding agreement amended to reflect required changes. A contractor has been identified and is expected to be engaged in May/June 2023, with works expected to be completed in April 2024. Access to some berths will be impacted when the works are underway – COS will manage communications to the public around scheduled works.

Upgrades to boat ramp/floating pontoons

- An independent consultant is being engaged to complete the report for certification of practical completion. Noted that this project has been a great success.

VFA-funded projects – boat ramp toilets, fish cleaning tables, ocean rescue shed

- In being linked to the Geelong City Deal projects, these projects are delayed while GORCAPA undertakes a review of the Apollo Bay Harbour Development Plan with respect to meeting the requirements of the Marine and Coastal Act and Policy. The Request for Quote (RFQ) to engage a consultant for the review will be open in May and is expected to be completed in Oct/Nov 2023. The review is to make clear what can and cannot happen under the new coastal legislation. Significant changes will trigger further planning review and community consultation. It is hoped to avoid long delays in considering timelines. Lack of suitable consultants and the State/Federal review of the Geelong City Deal projects in the GOR region as a whole, have contributed to the lengthy time taken for the review process.
- CO advised that the review will look at all legislation in place together with a gap analysis and inclusion of case studies for referencing. In this way, inconsistencies along the Victorian coastline are expected to be identified as an outcome from the review.
- FC advised that a value proposition to estimate costs for delivering the City Deal projects at a later time was undertaken by the COS project team and provided to GORCAPA in the handover for the project with respect to rising building costs.
- CO advised that the action plan from the toilet study undertaken by GORCAPA is being reviewed internally this week and at this stage won't be released to COS. A priority list and condition report/advice regarding toilets along the coast will be a key outcome from the plan.

Geelong City Deal Projects in Colac Otway Shire – Timeline (as requested in the meeting)

Oct 2019: Signing of the Geelong City Deal Implementation Plan between the Australian and Victorian Governments

Apr 2020: Project Director appointed for COS City Deal projects including Apollo Bay Harbour Redevelopment

May 2020 – May 2022: Design and early planning works for projects completed by COS project team

May 2022 – Dec 2022: Review of Geelong City Deal Projects in GOR region by key government stakeholders

Early 2023: Recommendation for Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority to take the lead on the Apollo Bay Harbour Redevelopment

Mid 2023: Formalise funding agreement to transition projects to GORCAPA (not yet formalised as at 9 May 2023)

AGENDA ITEM 9: SAFETY – RISKS, ISSUES AND INCIDENTS

Seal

- The seal at the boat ramp/fish cleaning station has become aggressive and is a risk contributing to the delay for the fish cleaning table upgrade project, along with the Development Plan review. Melbourne Zoo intend to undertake a health assessment of the seal in the coming weeks and together with Fisheries are responsible for the risk assessment and Wildlife Management Plan that is now required (governed under the Wildlife Act). A working group has been established which includes representatives from GORCAPA, COS, DEECA, Fisheries and Melbourne Zoo.
- Relocating the fish tables has been flagged as a potential mitigation for the risk associated with the seal – noted that relocation alone is unlikely to be successful and that more fines for people feeding the seal would be beneficial. Noted that prominently positioned cameras could also act as a deterrent.

Depth/Rock at Boat Ramp

- Feedback has been received regarding depth/rock at the eastern side of the boat ramp. FW advised that bedrock in that area is being monitored by the Port team in response, with signage planned to warn vessels of the low depth (as low as 0.3m), and advice to consider tides and to use the town side of the ramp instead. A draft of the proposed sign will be circulated to the group for feedback. FW will also look into funding options to engage a rock breaker in response to the issue.

Use of Slipway

#3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FC sought support from the group for users of the slipway to comply with requirements outlined in the user agreement with respect to safety. 	
AGENDA ITEM 10: POABCC MEMBERSHIP – EXTENSION OF 2-YEAR TERM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> POABCC memberships have been extended to cover the Port transition period, as previously agreed. 	
AGENDA ITEM 11: GENERAL BUSINESS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new numbering system and signage for the berths will be implemented over the next two months – berths will start with an E/W to reflect location on East or West end of Marina. Better Boating have funded an All Abilities Crane for community use, which is coming in the next couple of months and will be kept at the Sailing Club for people to book as needed to assist AA passengers to board vessels. Noted that M Flinders continues to explore the proposed King Island-Apollo Bay Harbour freight route. 	
AGENDA ITEM 12: ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FW shared image of Star Moorings on screen and plans to investigate potential funding to get one or more in place at the Port to replace the swing moorings. They are popular in Europe and very efficient on space. 	
Meeting Closed at 1:44pm	

Next Meeting: Tuesday 1 August 2023

Action Items					
#	ACTION	DATE	NOTES	RESPONSIBLE	STATUS
#1	Finalise land transfer from COS to GORCAPA at POAB.	21/02/23	Transfer date updated to 2024.	COS/GORCAPA	Ongoing
#2	Recruit new Port Manager.	21/02/23	Recruitment underway – new Manager to be appointed in Jun/Jul 2023.	FC, FW	On track
#3	Circulate draft signage for bedrock affected area next to boat ramp	09/05/23		FW	In progress

