

## Next Generation Project Consultative Group

Notes from the meeting held on Monday 12 November 2007, 7pm  
Port Otago Limited Building, Port Chalmers.

In Attendance: Stephen Higgs (Chair),  
Angela McErlane (Port Environment Liaison Committee),  
Bert Youngman (Otago Yacht Club),  
Graham Wall (Port Chalmers Yacht Club),  
Annica Lindgren (Dunedin City Council),  
Cheryl Adams (Blueskin Road resident),  
Bruce Hill (Dept of Conservation),  
David O'Malley (Octa Associates Ltd),  
Rick Boyd (Fisheries consultant)  
David Redshaw (Southern Clams),  
Hoani Langsbury (Otakou Runanga),  
Graeme Burns (Harrington Point Community Society),  
Irene Scurr (Otago Peninsula Community Board,  
Jan Tucker (Port Chalmers Community Board),  
John Milburn (Monarch Wildlife Cruises),  
John Perry (Port Environment Liaison Committee),  
Geoff Plunket (Port Otago),  
Lincoln Coe (Port Otago),  
Andre Mabon (Ravensbourne resident),  
Brett Hastie (South Coast Boardriders),  
Martin Single (Shore Processes and Management Ltd),  
Phil Mitchell (Mitchell Partnerships),  
Roy Innes (Port Environment Liaison Committee),  
Selva Selvarajah (Otago Regional Council)

Apologies: Warren Lewis (Recreational Fishing), Peter Brown (Port Otago),  
Roger Belton (Southern Clams), Joan Conway (Port  
Environment Liaison Committee), Stephen Walker (Harbour  
Cycle Network), Neil McDonald (Pt Chalmers Fishermen's Co-  
op), Paul Robinson (Otago Yacht Club),

### 1. Welcome/Introductions

Geoff Plunket welcomed and introduced the Group's Chairman, as had been resolved at the previous meeting.

Geoff also welcomed and introduced three new members: Irene Scurr (Otago Peninsula Community Board), Cheryl Adams (Blueskin Road resident), and Graeme Burns (Harrington Point Community Society).

### 2. Confirmation of Agenda

The agenda was circulated and confirmed for the meeting.

### 3. Confirmation of Notes from 9 October 2007 meeting

These were confirmed by the meeting.

#### **4. Matters arising**

Hoani Langsbury asked how the meeting with M Fish had progressed, especially in respect of cockles. Lincoln Coe confirmed that M Fish had a statutory management role for cockles and they would be kept well-informed about the project.

It was agreed that it would be desirable for an M Fish representative to attend the Group's meetings.

#### **5. Report Back from Individual Meetings with Port Otago**

##### **Communications**

Angela McErlane mentioned that the small team of volunteers appointed at the last meeting met on 5 November to discuss how best to keep the wider public informed about the project. A draft communication plan was discussed and added to at the meeting. A copy of the proposed communications plan was handed out to those present and a copy is attached to these notes.

Angela said the plan was a good one and the group was happy that it be implemented.

Stephen Higgs suggested that "Communication" be a standard agenda item for all future meetings. This was agreed.

##### **Surfing Interests**

Brett Hastie advised that a useful meeting had been held early in the day. The key issue from a surfing perspective was the protection of surf breaks and beaches. Further discussions will be held once the initial hydrodynamic modelling results become available.

##### **Yachting**

Bert Youngman advised that a group representing a number of the Otago yachting clubs met with Lincoln Coe and Phil Mitchell on 6 November. He and Paul Robinson said that it was a very thorough and useful meeting.

One matter to discuss was the state of the channels that feed into the main channel and the opportunities to improve passage through these areas.

The next step was for the different yacht clubs to each mark up a marine chart showing the areas of importance for yachting. This would then be collated on to a single chart.

John Milburn and Bert noted that the accuracy of the existing marine charts for areas of the harbour outside the main channel were of doubtful quality, as the base survey information was very old. Any opportunity to use information collected by this project to update the charts would be valuable.

The overall scale and extent of sediment movement and deposition around the harbour was a key issue. The initial results from the harbour hydrodynamic modelling results were awaited with interest, following which further discussions would be needed.

It was hoped that there would be opportunities to enhance some aspects of recreational use of the harbour as part of the current project.

## **Recreational Fishers**

In the absence of Warren Lewis, Lincoln Coe reported that a meeting had been held with Warren and Ted Young on 5 November.

The value of the wider Otago marine environment was stressed. A wide range of areas were considered to be important for diving, fishing, and wildlife. The creation of an artificial reef, using rock dredged from the channel was seen as beneficial.

## **Commercial Clam Interests**

A meeting had been held with Southern Clams on 5 November. This had been useful in clarifying the location of the likely dredging in relation to the clam resource. Some very useful information about the clam resource was provided. David Redshaw advised that Southern Clams was in the process of obtaining approval from M Fish to harvest clams in Otago Harbour.

## **Resulting Discussions**

Jan Tucker asked if the proposed articles for the Star Midweek would be a regular thing. Lincoln confirmed this was the intention. Jan noted that articles will need to include contact details and pick up on matters raised through the Consultative Group process.

Bert asked David about the timing of the Southern Clams project and was it likely that operations would start before Project Next Generation. David said that this was the intention

## **6. Project Update**

### **Introduction**

Lincoln advised that the "Scoping Report" for the project will be completed before Christmas and provided to the Group as a draft for comment. It will summarise the existing environmental information and set out what future studies are considered necessary. Specific components of the project work were then discussed, as summarised below.

### **Channel Design/Alignment**

Lincoln advised that one of the key tasks he had been progressing was the alignment of the new dredged channel. This was still preliminary but would mean that some initial technical assessments could be commenced and used as a basis for further discussion. Lincoln referred to a plan he had just prepared. This was not yet drawn up completely, so could not be distributed yet. It will be made available once completed.

Lincoln explained that:

- The main area of channel widening will occur in the "swinging basin" adjacent to the Port. This was necessary to enable the new larger ships to turn in order to access the berth.
- Over the length of the channel, widening in the order of no more than 20 metres is expected (the current width is about 180m), with the widening occurring mostly on the inside of the bends.

Lincoln stressed that this was still a "desktop" assessment.

The meeting noted that the effects of the deeper and wider channel on tidal flows, levels, sediment movement and erosion from ship wakes were key issues.

### **Harbour Hydro-Dynamics Study**

Lincoln noted that this last point led perfectly into the hydro-dynamic study of the harbour that Dr Rob Bell of NIWA was undertaking. He is in the process of developing a computer model that can be used to predict the effects of the channel on water flows and currents.

The first step though is to ensure that the model can reproduce the existing situation – this is referred to as calibration. Because there is a lot of existing information on water levels and tides from the various studies undertaken at the University, this would be very useful for calibrating the model.

It is hoped that the initial runs from the model will be available prior to Christmas and presented at the next meeting.

### **Coastal Processes**

Martin Single gave a brief outline of the work he was doing and confirmed that the Scoping Report would summarise what is already known about the relevant physical processes (waves, currents, sediment movements etc) that affect the Otago coastline.

Hoani asked whether the Scoping Report could be peer reviewed.

Phil Mitchell said that the reason the report was going to be released as a draft was to enable other people to comment on it before any further study programmes were finalised. The Group's Terms of Reference provided for technical specialists to liaise with each other and report back to the Group. It was important that the proposed work scopes were reviewed prior to them being commenced.

### **Ecology**

Lincoln reminded the group that Mark James from NIWA was responsible for this aspect of the work. Rick Boyd, who is a fisheries consultant, was introduced. He is one of a team of other technical specialists employed to ensure that the ecology report is as thorough and informative as possible.

Irene Scurr noted that the implications of fine sediment particles affecting the harbour's ecology were important, and were reported as being a problem in the last major dredging project in the 1970s.

Lincoln confirmed that this was a key component of the work required to be undertaken.

### **Resulting Discussion**

Stephen asked for any further feedback.

Irene asked if a deeper, wider channel meant that the tides would be high and currents faster.

Phil said that this will be a key output from the modelling. However by having a larger channel cross-section it may be that velocities will decrease. This is an important and complex issue that needs careful evaluation.

Lincoln clarified that it was likely that rock would be dredged separately from the predominantly sandy material that occurred over much of the channel length. He confirmed that the use(s) to which the rock could be put was a matter the Port Company was keen to discuss with the group.

Graeme Burns read a statement to the Group that set out his group's issues of concern. This related primarily to the erosion of Te Ruaone Beach and that the wakes of larger ships might make this worse. He felt there was merit in having the original groynes in the harbour rebuilt and that sand from the dredging should be used to replenish the beach, while rock could be used to stabilise the beach.

Bert noted, and the meeting agreed, that remedial works options should be addressed before the project was undertaken, rather than afterwards.

## **7. General Business**

Bert Youngman commented that this is the largest study on the Otago Harbour since the one undertaken in 1991, which had been well-publicised. He queried whether the local authorities should have a greater role in what was being planned so that there could be a better overall harbour management regime in place.

Stephen said he felt that this may be outside the scope of the project.

Phil agreed, although it was possible that the project might act as a catalyst for a wider harbour planning/management study.

## **9. Next meeting**

The next meeting was set for 17 December at 7.00pm – Port Otago Promotions Room.

**Meeting closed at 8.40pm.**