

## Next Generation Project Consultative Group

Notes from the meeting held on Monday 17 December 2007, 7pm  
Port Otago Limited Building, Port Chalmers.

In Attendance: Stephen Higgs (Chair),  
Artie Heineman (Port Chalmers Fishermans Co-op)  
Bert Youngman (Otago Yacht Club),  
Cheryl Adams (Blueskin Road resident),  
David O'Malley (Octa Associates Ltd),  
Fraser McRae (Otago Regional Council)  
Hoani Langsbury (Otakou Runanga),  
Graeme Burns (Harrington Point Community Society),  
Graeme Carse (Quarry Beach Surf Boards)  
Graham Wall (Port Chalmers Yacht Club),  
Jan Tucker (Chalmers Community Board),  
Joan Conway (Port Environment Liaison Committee)  
John Milburn (Monarch Wildlife Cruises),  
Lincoln Coe (Port Otago),  
Lox Kellas (Otago Coastguard),  
Mark James (NIWA),  
Martin Single (Shore Processes and Management Ltd),  
Nicola Bould (Harbour Cycle Network),  
Nicola Reeves (South Coast Boardriders),  
Paul Freeland (Dunedin City Council),  
Peter Brown (Port Otago),  
Phil Mitchell (Mitchell Partnerships),  
Robert Watt (Port Chalmers Resident),  
Roy Innes (Port Environment Liaison Committee),  
Tom De Pelsemaeker (Harwood Resident),  
Trevor Johnson (Chalmers Community Board)

Apologies: Stephen Walker (Harbour Cycle Network), Paul Robinson (Otago Yacht Club), John Christie (Otago Chamber of Commerce), Brett Hastie (South Coast Boardriders), Irene Scurr (Otago Peninsula Community Board), Selva Selvaraja (Otago Regional Council)  
Bruce Hill (DOC)

### 1. Welcome/Introductions/Farewells

#### a) New Members

Introduction of the following people made:

Fraser McCrae (ORC), Tom de Pelsemaeker (Harwood resident), Trevor Johnston (Chalmers Community Board), and Lox Kellas (Otago Peninsula Community Board & Coastguard), Nicola Reeves (South Coast Board Riders), Nicola Bould (Harbour Cycle Network), Robert Watt (Port Chalmers resident).

#### b) Retiring Members

It was noted that Andre Mabon has resigned from the PCG as she is no longer a member of the Chalmers Community Board. A letter of thanks has been sent to Andre.

### 2. Confirmation of Agenda

The agenda was circulated and confirmed for the meeting. John Milburn noted that there are a number of smaller sub-groups that are meeting outside the group meetings (for example the small vessels group are to meet early in the New Year) and he wanted to make sure these meetings would be reported back to the PCG. Lincoln confirmed this would always remain the case.

### **3. Confirmation of Notes from 12 November 2007 meeting**

These were confirmed by the meeting.

### **4. Matters arising**

Stephen noted that actions raised in the previous meeting have been picked up in the agenda. Jan commented on the Star newspaper article (published 13 December) and noted this was an excellent article which had garnered positive feedback from the public.

### **5. Update from meetings since 12 November**

#### **a) Otago Peninsula Community Board**

Lincoln advised that he and Phil has met with the Community Board to give an update of the project.

#### **b) Huirapa Runanga**

Lincoln advised that a similar update had been given to the Runanga.

John Milburn asked whether specific concern was raised by either group.

Lincoln commented that the main issues were:

- Environmental issues generally (Runanga)
- Te Ruaone Beach erosion (Community Board)
- The impact of the project on the eastern side of the harbour (Community Board). Separate meetings with this community will be of benefit.

### **6. Report Back**

#### **a) Introduction**

Stephen advised the meeting that there would be two presentations tonight (from Martin Single and Mark James) and that their reports would be circulated with the notes from this meeting within the next few days (see attached). The process for tonight's meeting was for PCG members to listen to the presentations, ask questions of clarification but hold discussion until the February meeting once all PCG members had had a chance to consider the reports in full. Lincoln advised the meeting that these presentations represented the current state of knowledge on the physical coastal environment (Martin) and the ecological environment (Mark). They identified what information is outstanding and what research/investigation still needs to be completed.

Lincoln also noted that the intake of knowledge would increase as the project progressed and feedback and input were welcome.

#### **b) Physical Coastal Environment**

Martin Single provided his presentation (attached).

The first part of his presentation dealt initially with generic types of effects being considered for any type of dredging project. These were specifically in relation to this project with possible effects relating to channel deepening, dredging and sediment disposal and, in summary, the indicative results show only small changes to high and low tide times along with small differences in the tide range and harbour currents. John Milburn queried the reason why channel velocity might actually decrease. Lincoln suggested that this should be discussed at next meeting when Dr Rob Bell of NIWA (who is creating the hydrodynamic model) is in attendance.

Martin commented that further work is required to assess sediment characteristics. Detailed modelling, field calibration and site specific studies are to be undertaken. In summary Martin noted that these effects could be avoided or mitigated.

It was noted that onshore sand could move as a consequence of channel velocity changes. For example it could potentially impact on Te Ruaone Beach. Martin said sand and sediment transport will be included in the hydrodynamic model. Similar situations around the world indicate that there needs to be significant changes in velocities to affect onshore sand activity. It was also noted that the Otago Harbour edge is relatively dynamic with natural erosion and accretion occurring.

John Milburn mentioned accretion as an issue, for example near Pilots Beach, where it is difficult for vessels to access. Changes are also relatively rapid. Martin said accretion as well as erosion is an issue. There may be a need to include specific areas in the detailed studies.

It was noted that the full report from Martin dealt with the above matters in greater detail.

Bert Youngman asked whether an equivalent hydrodynamic model was completed prior to the 1976 dredging, and whether the current model was able to assess the effect of past dredging. Martin advised that some modelling was completed in 1988 and that the proposed hydrodynamic model could be comparable with the 1988 model. The consents for earlier dredging were not based on comprehensive analysis but they may assist in identifying trend data.

Graeme Burns expressed his appreciation for Martin's presentation, which was generally shared by those present.

#### c) Ecological Environment

Mark James provided his presentation (attached).

Mark commented that an initial assessment indicates that there could be some disruption to food sources for birds. However any effects would be generally short term and spatially very restricted. For mammals there are similar potential effects but again they would be short term and spatially very restricted. A number of important communities (sensitive to the turbidity and sedimentation) have been identified including bryozoans, sea grasses, benthic organisms, cockles, birds, mammals and fish (disturbance and feeding) and plankton. The full report outlines potential issues relating to severity, duration and extent of any such effects. Future modelling work needs to identify the extent of any dispersion or plume.

Hoani asked that if a peer review was undertaken, would the raw data be made available. Mark said a substantial portion of the papers are published and publically available. Phil said that as provided for in the group's Terms of Reference, if people needed information it would be provided (if available) and meetings could be held to discuss specific issues. Lincoln advised that July/August is an indicative time to have completed the field work and final reports, although this could only be confirmed once final scoping had been completed.

It was suggested that baseline data on the plume from current dredging would be useful. Lincoln replied that there was no substantive data on the New Era operation. Some work could be undertaken however it would need to be able to be scaled up for proposed larger Project Next Generation dredging operation. Mark James advised there was some information on sediment plumes collected some time ago but that this information would need to be updated.

John Milburn noted that, in a storm conditions, the amounts of sediment flowing into the Harbour from the Leith were probably similar to those from the New Era dredging. However, the important issue was how long the levels remained elevated.

## 8. Communications update

Peter referred to last Thursday's article in the Star and circulated a copy to meeting attendees. It is planned to publish similar information articles throughout 2008 as more project information becomes available.

The web site construction is proceeding with a "go live" date early next year. It is proposed to put the names and contact details of the consultative group members on the web site. Peter asked for anyone to advise if they did not wish this information to be published.

A request was made to have all reports put on the website in PDF format (for downloading). This was agreed to. A request was also made for public meetings in addition to newspaper and internet-based communications. It was agreed that this would be a positive initiative

and a meeting could be held with Harwood residents if requested.

#### **9. General Business**

No items of General Business were raised

#### **10. Next meeting**

The next meeting was set for 11 February, 2008 at 7.00pm – Port Otago Promotions Room.

Stephen referred to the proposed agenda items for the next meeting and these were confirmed. A question was asked regarding the opportunity to have input into the hydrodynamic model. Phil suggested the best option was for PCG members to receive the report and provide feedback in a meeting with Rob Bell (report author).

The issue of traffic on SH88, and when that would be considered, was raised. Lincoln commented that this issue will be considered as part of the overall project. Transport is one aspect that will be closely analysed

Stephen closed the meeting at 9.00pm and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.