

Port Noise Liaison Committee

Notes of Meeting held on 5 March 2025

Present:

Mara Wolkenhauer (Independent Chair)

Port Otago

Grant Bicknell – Port Otago

Joanne Dowd – Port Otago

Brendon Shanks – Marshall Day Acoustics

Noise Committee Members

Joe Cecchi – Carey's Bay Association

Steve Duder – Port Chalmers Yacht Club

Alan Worthington - Dunedin City Council

Kristina Goldsmith - West Harbour Community Board
Representative

Fred Cross – Vision Port Chalmers - @ 6.20pm

Apologies:

Kevin Winders – Port Otago

Rachel Day – Careys Bay Representative

Mike Wheeler – Port Chalmers Representative

Dave Cormack – Wenita Forest Products

Joanna Gilroy – Otago regional Council

Welcome from Meeting Chair

Mara opened the meeting at 5.30 pm and welcomed the committee with a karakia to the first meeting of the year. Mara raised the issue of a register of interests that was previously discussed in September 2024 and is keen for this to be considered by the Committee. A draft register has been created and Joanne will distribute with the minutes for Committee members to consider and complete (where appropriate). Completed responses will be returned to Joanne by email.

Apologies

Apologies noted above were accepted.

Minutes of previous meeting (5 December 2024)

The minutes recording the meeting on 5 December 2024 were accepted as a true and complete record of the meeting.

Moved by the Chair. Seconded by Joe Cecchi.

Actions Schedule from Previous Meeting

Actions & Progress from the December 2024 Action List were noted including:

- **New noise monitoring system** – Brendon noted that the system trial at Eastland Port had completed and was now installed at that port. The newer generation systems have a lot of benefits in terms of analysis and stability. However, Port Otago need to have confidence in the system before installing it as a replacement. Joe queried the reason behind changing the system. It was noted that the existing system had experienced some reliability issues that have now been ironed out. The system is now being maintained by a number of technical specialists, and reliability has increased. Still to determine whether replacing the current system will result in any advanced benefits so Marshall Day will consider and advise Port Otago of next steps.

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- **Property at Island Terrace** – Offer of assistance made to the homeowner in December 2024 in accordance with the Noise Mitigation Plan provision. No response received from the homeowner.
 - **Preparation of myth buster fact sheets** – these are in progress and will be refined following feedback from the Committee – potentially several different fact sheets relating to various noise related issues. Redrafting to occur and approved by Mara and distributed to Committee for comment.
 - **Handheld noise monitors** – Port Otago's IT Team have installed a mobile noise monitoring app on the Port Protection Officers' (PPO) mobile devices. The training is to be put in place for the appropriate use by the PPO. Brendon reinforced that this technology won't be 100% accurate but would be used as a triage in advance of specific monitoring of noisy ships undertaken either in Port Otago or another port of call.

Correspondence

No correspondence received in the previous period.

Reports

Chairs Report

Mara presented her first Chairs report that reflected on the work undertaken during 2024 and the first quarter of 2025. Mara noted this reflected that a lot of work occurs in the background away from the Committee table both liaising with complainants directly and other ports noise liaison committee chairs to establish good practice.

Mara addressed the issue of her recent appointment to a job in Wellington, that meant she would be fulfilling her role as Chair in a remote capacity. Port Otago had amended her contract to reflect this, but Mara wanted to ensure the Committee was comfortable with the new arrangement. Mara noted that she had had 8 confirmations from Committee members that they were comfortable with her remaining in the Chair role.

Feedback was provided from Rachel Day, Mike Wheeler and Fred Cross that raised concerns around the chair role being filled remotely. It was noted by Mike Wheeler and reinforced by Fred Cross (when he arrived at @6.20pm) that when the new Chair was appointed the top criteria included: being local to the area; being able to meet with locals promptly after any complaints; the carbon footprint of flying someone down for meetings was not ideal when a local person would also fit the above criteria.

It was moved by Joe Cecchi and seconded by Mike Cummings - that Mara should remain in post until the end of December. If and when a new Chair was to be appointed, a smooth transition would be required, with Mara offering a proper hand-over period for the new Chair post 2025.

Noise Reporting – Presentation from Marshall Day

Brendon from Marshall Day briefly highlighted the key points of the pre-circulated quarterly noise report. Brendon noted that a manual calibration of the monitors was conducted on 16-17 October. This included running a calibration tone into the microphone that generated a high noise level. This influenced the Ldn (5 day) as indicated in the plot. Several spikes in the Ldn (1 day) were identified and were primarily due to noise from wind or fire sirens. The noise level attributed to port activity was not above 67 dB Ldn (5 day) at either monitoring site.

In terms of bangs and crashes, Brendon noted that recordings from the Scotia Street monitor were offline 17-25 November. Notwithstanding this, the number of bangs and crashes appear to be consistent with the moderately busy period of the year for port activity.

Joe queried whether the noise contours have been updated. Brendon confirmed that the contours have been updated following the redevelopment of the administration building. This did not result in a radical change in anticipated noise profile.

Update from Port Otago

Grant gave an overview of port operations for the period. He noted log volumes were back on track following a pickup from the Chinese market.

The cruise season is nearly finished. Cruise activity had been reduced this season and it is anticipated that there would be a further reduction in vessels calling to Port Chalmers next year. This has mainly been driven by government levies.

Container volumes have been down for this time of year. Grass has been growing well which is good for red meat breeders, but not culling yet. However, it is expected that dairy will start to pick up in April.

The de-construction works have commenced of the rail pad and these works are due to continue through to June. The railpad works will necessitate some container ships to be shifted from the CT Wharf to the MP Wharf, this may alter noise to other areas of the port. Proactive communications have been sent out to the community around the works and the potential for construction noise.

There have been some issues with the crane recently associated with power spikes that has impacted operations, this is being addressed.

Port Otago has entered into a commercial agreement with Napier Port to purchase a new dredge. The new vessel is due in 2027.

Noise Complaints

The Chair referred to the pre-circulated report on noise complaints and asked Joanne to give an overview of the report. Joanne noted that there had been 8 complaints for the period November 24 – February 25. Four of these complaints related to noise from the CMA CGM Quelimane on the 13th of January and emanated from one property. Mike Cummings noted that the ORC had also received a complaint in relation to the noise from the ship on 13th January. ORC noted that they had passed the complaint through to Port Otago. They cannot disclose who made the complaint but noted to the complainant that Port Otago would be best placed to respond to their concerns.

Mara noted that she sees part of her role being a mediator and she can be an intermediary in cases between the ORC and Port Otago.

Other complaints related to noise from the log yard relating to reversing horns. Joanne had contacted C3 to address the issue and it was discovered that an old forklift with a regular reversing siren had been used. The reversing siren was subsequently disconnected. However, a subsequent complaint was received about the same issue. Kent Chalmers noted that he would follow up with C3 to understand what was causing the disturbance.

Purpose of the Noise Committee

Mara tabled an agenda item for committee members to reflect on what they considered to be their role on the committee and whether the purpose of the committee needed to be revisited. Mara had prepared a handout outlining the legal mandate of the committee and extracted the requirements of the District Plan. She noted these were also reflected in the Port Noise Management Plan.

Mara noted that she had spoken to Catherine Taylore, the port noise chair for Nelson Port, to understand how that port deals with noise and to understand the role that that committee plays. Mara noted that the Nelson committee is quite small (3 reps and 3 staff – the port CEO does not attend) there are no regulators sitting on that committee. Meetings are held separately with regulators.

Mara went around the table and asked each committee member to outline their thoughts on their individual and collective purpose as part of the committee. The responses of the committee members have been summarised and are attached to these minutes.

Other Business

No other business was proposed.

Next meeting, date, time, and location

Next meeting is Wednesday 4 June, 5.30pm at the Port Otago offices.

Meeting closed 6.50pm

Actions

Meeting date	Action	Responsible	Due	Update
March 2025	Joanne to prepare a register of interests and send it out with the draft minutes for committee members to complete.	Joanne	Q2 2025	Complete.
December 2024	Prepare noise fact sheets for public dissemination.	Marshall Day/Joanne	Q2 2025	Being produced.
December 2024	Port Otago to review options for handheld noise monitors that could potentially be reintroduced and operated by Port Otago PPO team when complaints come in	Port Otago IT/PPO's/Joanne	Q2 2025	To be uploaded into Port Otago's learning management

Notes from Port Noise Liaison Committee Meeting – 5 March 2025

Discussion around the Purpose of the Group

The Chair asked the Committee to reflect on the purpose of the Committee. To inform this discussion, the Chair provided some background material that summarizes a few different documents, reflecting the current official mandate of the Committee (incl. relevant excerpts from local council's 2nd generation district plan (DCDP 2G) and the Port Noise Management Plan (rule 30.5.4). The Chair also shared the current purpose of the Nelson Port Noise Liaison Committee, as it appears on their website.

Each member was asked to share their views on their individual purpose on the committee, as well as their view on the collective purpose of the committee. The table below lists what each member shared with the group:

Committee member	Individual purpose	Collective purpose
Joe	Representing the Careys Bay Community (both bringing their views to this table and taking info back to them)	Making an effort to reduce noise for all and contribute to changes for the better
Ken	Encourage open communication between forest owners and community	
Alan	Assisting the community and port in relation to the district plan rules	A place to voice concerns and issues and to provide an oversight into all things noise
Kristina	Representing the West Harbour Community Board and advocating for the needs of my community	Making sure the community is heard and improving communication between Port and community
Mike	Representing the regulator and its framework (regulated to be on the committee). Consultation on noise	District Plan and regulatory framework needs this Committee
Fred	Representing the Port Chalmers business community and any issues on Main Street	We are here because it was a condition of the Environment Court ruling to be the moderator between Port and community
Steve	Representing the Yacht Club, as tenants of the Ports, as well as upholding the environment committee legacy	We are the conduit between the community and the Port

Based on these notes, the Chair has come up with a collective purpose that all members could relate to; to be discussed and a version adopted at the next Committee Meeting (4 June 2025).

The Local Council's District Plan and its regulatory framework set up the Port Noise Liaison Committee as a condition of the Environment Court ruling (year) to create a place where the community can voice concerns and issues related to noise. Through robust discussion, members contribute to positive outcomes that reduce noise issues for all, making sure the community is heard. Focusing on improved communication, the Committee is a conduit between the affected communities and the Port operations, mitigating any noise issue that may arise.

Then we could also list the specifics like Nelson?

The specific role of the PNLC is to:

- Consider all noise issues arising from the Port operation
- Carry out the functions identified in and oversee the implementation of the Port Noise Management Plan and Port Noise Mitigation Plan
- Ensure the Port is aware of the noise concerns of its neighbours and are taking steps to minimise and mitigate Port noise
- Ensure the Port is accurately measuring noise levels
- Ensure the Port and Port users adopt the best practical options to ensure noise does not exceed a reasonable level
- Monitor the acoustic treatment of properties within the noise contour areas.