

Port Noise Liaison Committee

Notes of Meeting held on 02 September 2026

Present:

Jeri Fraser (Independent Chair)

Port Otago

Kevin Winders – Port Otago

Grant Bicknell – Port Otago

Joanne Dowd – Noise Officer - Port Otago

Brendon Shanks – Marshall Day Acoustics

Marian Poole - West Harbour Community Boards

Steve Duder – Port Chalmers Yacht Club

Ian Anderson – Fonterra

Apologies:

Sarah Kirkland – Otago Regional Council

Mike Wheeler – Port Chalmers

Noise Committee Members

Rachel Day - Carey's Bay Association

Alan Worthington – Dunedin City Council

Dave Cormack - Wenita Forest Products

Joe Cecchi – Carey's Bay Association

Mike Cummings - Otago Regional Council

Welcome from Meeting Chair

The Chair opened the meeting at 5.30 pm and welcomed the committee with a karakia. The Chair requested apologies and any known conflicts of interest. No new conflicts were raised.

Apologies

Apologies noted above were accepted.

Minutes of previous meeting (3 June 2026)

The minutes recording the meeting held on 3 June 2026 were accepted by exception via email. The committee agreed to continue with this process going forward.

Actions Schedule from Previous Meeting

Actions & Progress from the June 2026 Action List were noted including:

- Replacement noise monitoring system (Site Hive) – No update continuing to monitor.
- Quarterly Noise Assessment – extend reporting timeframe – complete - agenda item.
- Long term noise history graph – complete - agenda item.
- Port Noise Management Plan – complete. Tracked changes version sent to Committee Members to review. No comments received. Plan will be finalised once the Noise Contour Modelling had been completed.
- Objectives of the PNLC included in Committee Pack – complete and will be part of the pack going forward.
- Noise Contour modelling update has commenced. Awaiting input from C3 and Fonterra to be completed – in progress.
- Minutes of previous meeting circulated by Chair and approved by exception – complete.

Reports

Update from Port Otago

Port Otago Chief Executive gave an overview of Port Otago operations. Noted that it is currently quieter at the port than usual for this time of year so should not be much port related noise. There have been contractors on site undertaking pavement replacement works and a gradual project of light tower replacement will soon conclude. The new light towers are LED which assist with light spill beyond the port.

Works on the hillside above Macandrew Road by KiwiRail, DCC, Aurora Energy and Port Otago to remove trees has gone well.

No other operational changes on the port that would generate noise.

The new dredge Kapuka should be on its way to Port Chalmers soon, expected late December /early January. The port has also confirmed that 10 new Konecranes Noell hybrid straddle carriers have been ordered. They will be built in Germany and are expected to arrive in August 2027.

Works currently underway to convert the Waste Management site at Fryatt Street for log storage increasing the current capacity at the site.

Bulk and oil businesses still the same.

Port Otago is due to be the biggest port for cruise for the 26/27 period based on ports of call – which is great for the southern region.

Noise Reporting – Presentation from Marshall Day

Brendon from Marshall Day briefly highlighted the key points of the pre-circulated quarterly noise report. He noted the new format for the report and the extended reporting period. Will aim to report up to the 15th of the month prior to the committee meetings, so reports are current. Overall, there appears to be a downward trend in noise, which coincides with the quiet period at the port.

Several spikes in the Ldn (1 day) have been identified. These were primarily due to noise from fire sirens, extended periods of high wind, or ships. Even with these external noise sources, the measured noise level was not above 67 dB Ldn (5 day) at either monitoring site. Noted that there was a 15% increase in noise at the Scotia Street monitor in August

In terms of bangs and crashes, it was noted that these related to noise from within the port and KiwiRail. The number of night-time port noise events at the Scotia Street monitor increased by 15% compared to the previous year. It was noted that the Norse Kamijima log vessel was in port and might have been a contributing factor, which would be the first log vessel-related noise complaint at Port Chalmers for a while.

The number of events at the Cemetery dropped by 30%.

The long-term data indicates that levels at Scotia Street monitors are typically within the historical norm, with some peaks as identified above.

The Committee members considered that the presentation of the data within the long-term range plots was useful to understand noise levels over the extended time frame.

Noise Complaints

The Chair referred to the pre-circulated report on noise complaints and asked the Noise Officer to give an overview of the report. The Noise Officer noted there had been a reduction in vessel related complaints - 5 complaints for Port Chalmers, Careys Bay and Roseneath. New complainants from Roseneath seemed to coincide with ships entering and leaving the port, so potentially associated with the two generators required for safety. No other obvious reasons for complaint. Noted that the level of complaint was significantly lower than the same period in 2025. The 2025 figures included a serial complainant.

The West Harbour CB representative queried some of the categories in the noise complaint report such as what was represented in the “other” category. The Noise Officer noted that the “other” category related to complaints received from outside the area covered by the Port Noise Management regime and outside the remit of the PNLC. This included complaints received from areas such as Seacliff, Portobello and Macandrew Bay etc.

The committee member also queried whether there was a mechanism to break down the Port Chalmers grouping further so there was greater oversight of specific areas of complaint. The Noise Officer noted that the categories had been kept relatively broad to protect anonymity of complainants. But the Noise Officer will review the collected data to understand if there is a way to present the data in a different way to support the committee in identifying any noise related trends.

Other Business

The Wenita Forest Products representative queried progress on the Mosgiel inland port proposal. The Port CE noted that the project was progressing through the fast track approvals process. Opportunities for comment on the proposal had closed and the team were working with the appointed panel to address issues raised. A decision was expected in November 2026.

Public Meeting

The chair sought feedback on the proposed format for the public meeting. Was the committee happy with the current format or should there be any change? The committee considered the 2025 meeting had gone well with the public having the opportunity to ask questions at the start of the meeting with the option of staying for the remainder of the meeting if they chose. Noted by the Chair that the scope of the meeting (being specific to noise) should be made clear.

Options to discuss other issues such as environment could be addressed through meetings of the West Harbour Community Board or a separate event run by the Port such as the upcoming open day.

The Chair queried how the meetings were advertised. The Noise Officer noted that advertisements are included in the Rothsay News for the November issue and supplemented by Facebook posts and flyers distributed in the library, supermarket and local cafés.

Next meeting, date, time, and location

Dates for the 2026 Port Noise Liaison Committee meetings.

- 2 December 2026 (Public Meeting)

Meeting closed 6.20pm

Actions

Meeting date	Action	Responsible	Due	Update
March 26	Marshall Day to consider addition noise monitoring locations when the SiteHive (or similar alternative) system is available.	Marshall Day	Q4 2026	
September 26	Noise Officer to explore if there are ways to present the noise data that gives greater insight into the areas where complaints have been received (while protecting anonymity).	Noise Officer	Q4 2026	
September 2026	Chair to circulate the minutes for approval by exception via email post meeting.	Chair	ASAP	