



## Port Hedland Industries Council

Community Industry Meeting

### Minutes

Tuesday 20 February 2025

3.00 pm

### VENUE

The WEB Business Hub, Port Hedland  
and via MS Teams

Attendees	Organisation
Kirsty Danby (Chair)	PHIC
Chantel Cullen	PHIC - Recorder
Ariana St-Pierre	PHIC / PPA
Tegan Read	MRL Proxy
Belinda Trowbridge	PHIC / BHP - Proxy
Laura Hawes	PHIC / Fortescue
Scott Ballum	PHCCI
Trish Barron	PDC
Michael Ciccotosto	Hedland Senior High School
Orazio Santalucia	Town of Port Hedland
Bill Lamb	PHIC / Roy Hill
Kelly Howlett	Care for Hedland
Abby Carter	Community
Kianna Barker	Community
Russell Trowbridge	Community
Byron Klein	Community
Phil Donnan	PH Seafarers Centre
Dawn Hunter	NR TAFE - Proxy
Shiwani Nair	Port Hedland International Airport - Proxy
Joel Schreiber	Community
Dave McGowan	Community
Invitees	Organisation
Danielle Van Kampen	Hanrine Foundation
Chris Towsey	Pathfinder Exploration

Apologies	Organisation
Niv Reddy	PHIC / ConsMin
Kevin Michel, MP	Member for Pilbara
Dan Barker	PHIC / MRL
Michelle Schluter	NR TAFE
James Waltham	PHIC / QUBE
Stacey Turale	PHIC / BHP
Christie Haynes	Ashburton Aboriginal Corp
Melinda Hayes	PHIC / Pilbara Minerals
Chris Vale	Community
Shanna Crispin	ToPH
Tony Simpson	Regional Development Australia – Pilbara
Brittany Heydenrych	Community
Hayley Vale	Port Hedland International Airport
Roger Higgins	Community
Gloria Jacob	Community
Ambika Rebello	Town of Port Hedland
Morag Lowe	Community
Lee Ross	Community

Meeting Details	
Item	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting opened by Kirsty Danby 3.00pm</li> <li>- Acknowledgement of Country and recognition of the Kariyarra people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the CIF meets.</li> </ul>
1.1 Confirmation of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Confirmation of the PHIC CIF Minutes dated 12 November 2024 confirmed by Tegan Read, Joel Schrieber &amp; Bill Lamb</li> </ul>
1.2 Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resignations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dave Batic - has left Port Hedland International Airport CEO role and relocated. We wish Dave all the best and thank him for the incredible value and contribution he made in his role as CEO and on the CIF.</li> <li>- Narelle Wells - has finished up the Coordinator contract role with Care For Hedland. Thanks to Narelle for her enthusiasm and input to the forum.</li> <li>- Nat Fielding - has moved on from his role at QUBE. We will miss Nat's energy and positive contribution.</li> <li>- Janine Keall – on leave this year from the High School.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- New Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hayley Vale – New CEO PHIA</li> <li>- Micheal Ciccotosto – New HSHS Principal</li> <li>- Scott Ballem – New CEO PHCCI</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Guest Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chris Towsey, Managing Director, Pathfinder Exploration</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1.3 Governance	<p><b>Observer Rules</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Observing the CIF is a privilege that has been agreed by members, noting that conversation participation is restricted to members. You are welcome to continue the conversations with members following the meeting in the networking drinks.</li> </ul>
1.4 Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All members to positively promote information received through this group to their respective networks, supported by the facts presented to the group.</li> <li>- PHIC to provide links to the mega trend reports discussed in the presentation on request.</li> <li>- PHIC to gather information and CIF members to contribute to the ideas of what can be done to minimise impacts if the commodity prices fall for discussion next meeting.</li> </ul>
2.0 PHIC Update	<p><b>Kirsty Danby provided an update on Port Hedland Air Monitoring: AAQMN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The original intent of PHIC was around collaboration on environment impacts, including dust. PHIC's commitment is to share information openly and honestly with community members who are interested, and in a timely manner.</li> <li>- While DWER has now assumed responsibility for the Air Monitoring, PHIC has promised the CIF that we will continue to provide updates in this forum.</li> <li>- Dust emissions are measured at Taplin street monitoring station. The air guidelines state that the limit is 70mg / m3 over a 24 hour period with an allowance for some exceedances due to the nature of the Port Hedland environment and export activities.</li> <li>- I will be providing an overview in this meeting and detailed queries can be made to PHIC offline.</li> <li>- The January to December 2024 result reports have been received from our independent consultant Katestone.</li> <li>- Katestone is commissioned by PHIC to undertake independent verification of the monitoring network data, which is in line with DWER reporting.</li> <li>- PHIC's analysis of the data is undertaken quarterly, rather than annually, enabling an early view on outcomes so we can share the information with you guys.</li> <li>- In such a challenging climate we are undertaking extra analysis to determine likely causes.</li> <li>- We are also currently investigating new technologies and other types of analysis which may provide even greater detail – always looking to build on our knowledge and investigate new ways to scientifically understand air quality in Hedland</li> <li>- As we shared in our last couple of updates, there has been a lot of dry weather, strong winds, bushfires and a lot of local construction in our town and the region over the hotter months of last year – unlike the wet conditions we have had this year.</li> <li>- Thirty-one exceedances of the 24-hour average PM10 in January – December 2024 verified by Katestone.</li> <li>- All exceedances have background contribution.</li> <li>- <b>Eight exceedances over 70 µg/m³ had industry contribution.</b></li> <li>- Twenty-one were natural events.</li> <li>- PHIC has a factsheet on Air Quality and Dust Monitoring on the website - <a href="https://www.phic-hedland.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/PHIC-Fact-Sheet-Air-Quality-April-2024.pdf">https://www.phic-hedland.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/PHIC-Fact-Sheet-Air-Quality-April-2024.pdf</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion following the presentation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nil</li> </ul>

**Kirsty Danby provided an update on PHIC Environmental Programs:**

**Greater Port Hedland Vertebrate Pest Management Program**

- The main objectives of the VPMP include:
  - Increasing awareness on threats and impacts caused by foxes and feral cats to native fauna and ecosystems
  - Reducing impacts and damage of foxes and feral cats on susceptible native fauna species and the environment by implementing effective controls according to best practices and guidelines
  - Promoting collaboration, information and resource sharing between stakeholders for a holistic approach to broadscale vertebrate pest management across multiple land tenures.
- The beach control program seeks to reduce fox populations at turtle nesting beaches during periods where turtles are laying eggs and hatchlings are emerging. The hinterland control program is timed to target vertebrate pests (foxes and feral cats) when they are breeding to reduce their populations and the associated predation of not just turtles, but Quolls, birds and lizards.
- Efforts around assessment and control of feral cats and foxes were originally conducted separately by individual businesses and the Town itself.
- PHIC initiated consolidation of these efforts and resources has become a wonderfully collaborative group including:
  - The Town of Port Hedland
  - PHIC members
  - Dampier Salt
  - Care for Hedland
  - APA
- After completing two full years of this program, the report trends are showing a reduction in fox population and an increase in native fauna activity. In August two short-beaked Echidnas and several Sand Goannas were caught in the traps and were released in good condition.
- Feral cat captures have decreased compared to the previous three treatments. This may indicate that the feral cat population has been reduced, with cat removal occurring at a higher rate than recruitment of feral cats into the wild population.
- The next full program starts in April 2025.
- A reminder that the ToPH offer free traps and removal of feral cats for community members. Please contact them directly if you would like more information

**SWASP**

- PHIC coordinates a program that monitors for invasive marine pests in the Port waters, known as the Statewide Array Surveillance Program – which we refer to as SWASP.
- The program runs for a three-month period, twice a year.
- This program is a partnership between PHIC, our members, Pilbara Ports and DPIRD and is an award-winning early warning system.
- To date, no invasive marine pests that require intervention have been detected in the Port Hedland port water.
- Like the VPMP, a fact sheet on this program can be found on the PHIC website.

**Marine Environment Quality Monitoring Program**

- The Marine Environment Quality Monitoring Program or Marine Program for short has been in full swing with quarterly water sampling being undertaken under the PHIC collaborative program.
- The purpose of implementing the Marine Program is to improve understanding of the quality of the local marine environment including natural processes and pressures, enabling monitoring and reporting on long-term trends in marine environmental quality.
- PHIC developed the initial program to be collaborative and risk-focused to met the collective needs of industry at the Port. Pilbara Ports implemented the baseline monitoring in 2020. PHIC, the Port and all members, will now be running the Marine Program from 2025 local Port Hedland environment.
- It is a non-regulated, voluntary program that is consistent with best practice. Members and the community will have access to up to date data on marine environmental quality to demonstrate the environmental values of the Port are being protected.
- A key feature of the MEQMP involves quarterly sampling of marine waters and annual marine sediment monitoring, in combination with scientific assessment and observations at a range of monitoring sites within the Port and surrounding areas. Water and sediments collected as part of the MEQMP are sent to third party laboratories for a range of analyses (e.g. metals, hydrocarbons, nutrients, nuisance organisms and pathogenic bacteria). Results from these analyses are used as indicators of the 'quality' of the marine environment within the Port.

**Discussion following the presentation:**

- Nil

<b>3.0 Social Investment</b>	<p><b>PHIC Industry members, BHP, Fortescue, Mineral Resources, Roy Hill &amp; Hanrine Foundation, Pilbara Ports and PLS presented on their Social Investment in Port Hedland and Community grants programs:</b></p> <p><b>Discussion following the presentation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Members commented that industry provides incredible value to the Port Hedland community.</li> </ul>
<b>4.0 A proposed Gibson Desert Highway</b>	<p><b>Chris Towsey presented on a proposed Gibson Desert Highway:</b></p> <p><b>Discussion following the presentation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Members commented that the highway was an excellent idea.</li> </ul>
<b>5.0 Global Mega Trends affecting Port Hedland</b>	<p><b>Kirsty Danby presented on the global mega trends that affect Port Hedland:</b></p> <p><b>Discussion following the presentation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A member queried the sustainability of local companies with large losses reported in mining company half annual reporting. Is there any discussion around lessons learnt from the last cycle / commodity price decline and is there any thoughts on insulating the host community from some of those effects. 80% of the small businesses in town rely on the mining sector. A downturn could impact the social investment from the larger organisations.</li> <li>- Another member commented that the current state of the economy is cyclical and geopolitical. However, a cumulative study is being done on Hedland. There is \$200 billion worth of projects coming to the Pilbara. Potential for PDC to provide a presentation to the CIF on the project pipeline.</li> <li>- A member suggested that ideally there is some education around the potential of a down turn and potential buffers for community members that may not be aware of the nature of the cyclical economy.</li> <li>- Kirsty has suggested that these issues could be brought up with appropriate organisations from a PHIC perspective.</li> <li>- With regards to the reported losses, there are many inputs into the green transition and a lot of cost to all proponents which may be impacting financial reporting.</li> <li>- Industry Community managers and community organisations are pushing for multiyear support for community partnerships.</li> <li>- A member suggested that it would be helpful and beneficial to understand history and lessons learned – what were the big things that affected Port Hedland in the last downturn. These could be used to guide the community.</li> <li>- How can small business sector and mum and dad investors insulate themselves – where could the community do better to support them? Are there conversations with small businesses to advise them what they should be doing now to prepare?</li> <li>- PHIC to gather information and CIF members to contribute to the ideas of what can be done to minimise impacts if the commodity prices fall.</li> </ul>
<b>6.0 Other Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town of Port Hedland has a housing survey out now for input from Community.</li> <li>- Kianna Barker presented update on the Hedland Well Womens Centre pilot program – Womens Telehealth GP service. Take up is very high and program going well. Shows gap and need for the service in the community.</li> <li>- PHIC member Red Hawk Mining has been acquired by Fortescue and as such is no longer a PHIC member.</li> </ul>
<b>7.0 Future Agenda Items</b>	<p><b>Please advise PHIC if you have anything you would like to discuss in future agenda items.</b></p> <p><b>Tentative PHIC CIF Quarterly meeting dates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 21 May 2025, 11 August 2025, 12 November 2025</li> </ul>