



**Port Hedland Industries Council- Community Industry Forum (CIF)
Minutes**

DATE: Wednesday, 4th February 2026

TIME: 3.00 pm – 6.00 PM

VENUE: The WEB Business Hub, Port Hedland
and via MS Teams

Attendees	Organisation
Krista Dunstan	PHIC CEO- CIF Chair
Ambika Rebello	PHIC Community Relations
Dan Barker	PHIC/PLS
Ariana St-Pierre	PHIC / Pilbara Ports
Belinda Fox	PHIC / BHP
Rebecca Parker	PHIC / Pilbara Minerals
Adam Norton	PHIC / Hancock Iron Ore
Orazio Santalucia	Town of Port Hedland
Hayley Vale	PH International Airport
Daiva Gillam	CEO RDA Pilbara
Scott Ballum	CEO PHCCI
Kelly Howlett	Care for Hedland
Phil Donnan	PH Seafarers Centre
Michael Ciccotosto	Hedland Senior High School
Morag Lowe	Community
Kianna Barker	Community
Dave McGowan	Community
Byron Klein	Community (Dy. Chair CIF)
Chris Vale	Community
Michael Ciccotosto	Hedland Senior High School

Apologies	Organisation
Kevin Michel, MP	Member for Pilbara
Annie Court	Qube
Trish Barron	PDC
James Gibson	Kariyarra Aboriginal Corp.
Laura Hawes	PHIC / Fortescue
Christie Haynes	Ashburton Aboriginal Corp
Gloria Jacob	Community
Brittany Heydenrych	Community
Roger Higgins	Community
Lee Ross	Community
Abby Carter	Community
Joel Schreiber	Community

Invitees	Organisation
Karlene Bylund	PHIC / Pilbara Ports
Jessica Shaw	TOPH Commssioner
Tim Turner	Royal Life Saving WA

Observers	Organisation
Stacey Turale	PHIC / BHP
Kenn Donohoe	A/CEO TOPH
Shavon Bircham	PHIC/Pilbara Ports
Greer Johnson	APA Group
Dawn Hunter	NR Tafe
Relma-Bule Turner	Pilbara Kimberly University
Rhiannon Llewellyn	PDC (proxy for Trish Barron)

Meeting Details	
Item	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting opened by Krista Dunstan at 3.00pm - Acknowledgement of Country and recognition of the Kariyarra people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the CIF meets.
1.1 Confirmation of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirmation of the PHIC CIF Minutes dated 9th September 2025, confirmed by Adam Norton.
1.2 Introduction	<p>Guest Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Karlene Bylund, Executive General Manager Customer and Strategy, Pilbara Ports - Commissioner Jessica Shaw, Town of Port Hedland - Tim Turner, State Manager Employment Services, Royal Life Saving WA
1.3 Governance	<p>Observer Rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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.
1.4 Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All members to positively promote information received through this group to their respective networks, supported by the facts presented to the group.
1.5 PHIC News	PHIC welcomed its new CEO, Krista Dunstan, who introduced herself to the CIF group.
2.0 PHIC Update	<p>Krista Dunstan provided an update on Port Hedland Air Monitoring:</p> <p>AAQMN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. - 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. - 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. - CEO provided an overview in this meeting and detailed queries can be made to PHIC offline. - The January to December 2025 result reports have been received from our independent consultant Katestone. - Katestone is commissioned by PHIC to undertake independent verification of the monitoring network data, which is in line with DWER reporting. - 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 this Forum. - There have been six exceedances of the 24-hour average PM10 in January – December 2025 verified by Katestone. Four exceedances were attributed to industry. - All exceedances have background contribution. - PHIC has a factsheet on Air Quality and Dust Monitoring on the website - https://www.phic-hedland.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/PHIC-Fact-Sheet-Air-Quality-April-2024.pdf <p>Discussion following the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding the difference between industry-generated and natural or regional dust events, including the composition of the dust.

**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 three full years of this program, the reported trends are showing a reduction in fox population and an **increase in native fauna activity where once there was none**. Native fauna including short-beaked Echidnas and Sand Goannas have been caught in the traps and were released in good condition.
- Care for Hedland estimates that **from 2008-2024, 61,800 eggs have been saved because of program**.
- 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 ToPH expanded their feral cat trapping footprint area into more domestic spaces in April 2025 and we are looking forward to seeing the results.
- The last full program was conducted in August 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.
- This program is collaborative and risk focused. It is 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

3.0 Pilbara Ports – Port Development Strategy	- Karlene Bylund , General Manager Customer and Strategy, Pilbara Ports presented on the development strategy for Port Hedland- one of the world’s most significant trade gateways. Karlene outlined how the port will continue supporting its vital bulk export role while preparing for long-term change driven by evolving global trade trends to remain a critical enabler of economic growth and regional resilience.
4.0 Town of Port Hedland Update	- Commissioner Jessica Shaw provided an update on how the Town of Port Hedland is supporting a young, diverse, and growing community in one of Australia’s most economically important regions. The focus remains on improving liveability, while working closely with industry and all levels of government to ensure community voices are heard as Port Hedland continues to grow and evolve.
5.0 Talent Pool Academy – A Regional WA Success Story	Tim Turner , State Manager Employment Services at Royal Life Saving WA, shared the inspiring success of the Talent Pool Academy, a program which started in Port Hedland and has expanded across regional WA. The program has created meaningful pathways for young people, particularly First Nations youth- through water safety training, lifeguard qualifications, and first-time employment; helping to build confidence, skills, and future pathways.
6.0 Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are looking to grow the CIF Forum community members and welcome recommendations. Expressions of Interest (EOIs) close on 28 March. - Following last year’s successful PHIC Members Community Grants program, we are pleased to continue the initiative in 2026, with the PHIC website showcasing a range of member-funded grants supporting our Hedland community. - PHIC members enjoyed a networking session following the presentations, providing an opportunity to connect, exchange ideas, and build professional relationships.
7.0 Future Agenda Items	Please advise PHIC if you have anything you would like to discuss in future agenda items. Tentative PHIC CIF Quarterly meeting date: 13th May 2026.