

Minutes

Port Noise Liaison Committee Meeting:
Napier Port Boardroom – 1530, Tuesday 10 March 2026

1. Attendance & Apologies

The meeting was opened at 3.39pm, with Chair Eileen von Dadelszen welcoming all attendees.

Attendance:

Committee members: Jay Streatfield (Napier Port), David Broad (Napier Port), Adam Harvey (Napier Port), Fleur Murray (Napier Port), Chris Lonergan (Napier Port), Craig Fitzgerald (Marshall Day Acoustics), Ian Emmerson (User Representative), Paulina Wilhelm (NCC Manager City Development), Kay Foley (Resident representative), Peter Edmead (Resident representative), Alan Petersen (Resident representative), Segan Cupido (HBRC representative)

2. Apologies:

- Councillor Roger Brownlie (NCC) and Councillor Keith Price (NCC)
- Ross Jackson (Resident representative)

Adopted (Moved: Ian Emmerson / Seconded: Peter Edmead)

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

- Minutes of the 6 October 2025 meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record, subject to the following clarification:
 - Paulina Wilhelm was incorrectly recorded as attending and should be noted as an apology.

Adopted (Moved: Kay Foley / Seconded: Adam Harvey)

4. Matters arising from previous meeting

- Actions relating to Maritime NZ engagement were noted as covered under Agenda Item 6.
- No further matters arising.

5. Agenda Review

Napier City Plan Update (Paulina Wilhelm, NCC)

- The District Plan is now in the appeals phase, with decisions having been issued and appeals lodged.
- One appeal relates specifically to port noise provisions, lodged by Napier Port.

- Council officers are preparing position statements and will enter discussions with parties to resolve appeals where possible.
- Many matters are expected to be resolved through mediation, with only more complex issues progressing to the Environment Court.
- It was noted that:
 - Appeals may include both substantive and administrative/technical corrections.
 - Not all parts of the plan are affected – non-appealed provisions can become operative ahead of others.
- Port clarification (David Broad, Napier Port):
 - Drafting and referencing errors
 - Plan mechanics
 - The mitigation value cap provisions

6. Maritime NZ and Low Frequency Noise Update

Jay Streatfield (Napier Port) / Craig Fitzgerald (Marshall Day)

- Maritime NZ hosted a national ports meeting (mid-February) and released draft fact sheets on port noise.
- Feedback from Napier Port and other ports was that:
 - The material was disappointing and overly generic
 - It did not meaningfully address low frequency ship noise, the primary issue raised by communities
- Key discussion points:
 - Maritime NZ indicated it is not currently intending to introduce standards or regulation, unless aligned with the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
 - The issue may be raised alongside underwater noise and emissions at upcoming IMO discussions.
 - Craig Fitzgerald noted that:
 - The fact sheets fall below the level of guidance already being provided by ports to shipping lines
 - Ports are effectively leading the response, with Maritime NZ lagging behind
 - Adam Harvey and David Broad expressed strong frustration, noting:
 - Napier Port had significant representation at the meeting
 - Engagement is occurring at the appropriate technical level within MNZ, but without meaningful progress
- Ongoing actions:
 - Ports (collectively) continue to:
 - Provide consistent messaging to shipping lines

- Engage directly with customers (e.g. meetings with international shipping lines in Singapore)
- Craig Fitzgerald confirmed he is providing technical support for the collective of New Zealand ports on this issue.
- Committee discussion:
 - There was general agreement that:
 - The issue is well understood
 - National regulatory leadership is required to achieve meaningful change

7. Terms of Reference review

- A draft Terms of Reference (ToR) was circulated by Chair for initial discussion.
- It was noted that the committee has operated without a formal reference document to date, and this represents an important step.
- Key discussion points:
 - Purpose vs Intentions:
 - Members questioned whether a separate “intentions and principles” section is required, noting overlap with the purpose statement.
 - Suggested principles (Fleur Murray):
 - Good faith and respect
 - Transparency
 - Evidence-based decision-making
 - Practical mitigation focus
 - Early issue identification
 - Community feedback loops
 - Appropriate confidentiality
 - Budget and decision-making:
 - Kay Foley raised concern about the budget constraint in mitigation decisions, noting that residents have limited visibility of budgets and this could create tension if recommendations cannot be funded.
 - It was agreed that:
 - Early engagement in budget-setting would help avoid disputes
 - A provision could be included to review mitigation budgets prior to finalisation
 - Committee effectiveness:
 - Peter Edmead noted concern about slow progress, particularly on low frequency noise.
 - Acknowledged that:
 - Napier Port has made significant progress on general noise reduction
 - Low frequency noise remains the key unresolved issue

- Community engagement:
 - Feedback that previous engagement (e.g. “Coffee in the Gully”) was positive but follow-up communication was limited
 - Opportunity identified to improve ongoing communication with residents
- Actions
 - Fleur Murray to draft and circulate proposed principles
 - Residents were encouraged to review the Terms of Reference ahead of the next meeting and consider any feedback or suggested changes
 - Fleur Murray to work with resident representatives on improved community engagement approach
 - Terms of Reference to be refined and finalised at next meeting

8. Port Activities Update

Adam Harvey (Napier Port)

- Port operations are currently in peak produce season, with high volumes moving through the port
- Key updates:
 - Cruise season: Approximately seven visits remaining
 - Bulk cargo: Slightly reduced volumes; logs expected to reduce in the medium term
 - E Area transition: Moving from logs to container storage
 - Crane maintenance programme: ~10 weeks
 - Napier Port Transformation (NPT):
 - First electric truck arriving May 2026
 - New operating model by August 2026
 - Autonomous operations from November 2026
 - Ravensdown: Increased coastal shipping following Dunedin changes
 - 6 Wharf: Temporarily closed for installation of ShoreTension system
 - Future investment:
 - Evaluation of future cranes
 - Joint venture dredge with Port Otago (~12 weeks/year operation)
 - Ongoing electrification work with Unison
- Discussion:
 - Kay Foley asked about visual impact of containers in E Area – noted as largely visual impact rather than noise-related; the area was previously used for container storage.

9. Residents Update

Kay Foley – general feedback from residents:

- Raised concerns regarding:

- Light glare at night (further details to be provided back to the port)
- Dust inside homes
- Napier Port reiterated the need for residents to make a complaint when experiencing an issue, so that it can be addressed. Also noted the Talk to our Team form on the port website for general complaints, available here:
<https://www.napierport.co.nz/community/talk-to-our-team/>
- Positive feedback on the reduced activity at 6 Wharf
- Napier Port noted an increased customs/security presence following a recent incident

Alan Petersen:

- Observations were raised regarding low-riding log vessels. It was noted that the Harbourmaster manages ballast-related requirements and restrictions, and also that NIWA conducts biosecurity water surveys twice a year as part of ongoing monitoring.
- Raised issue of road traffic (racing vehicles) – port assisting Police with CCTV

Peter Edmead:

- Thanked Napier Port for improvements over the past six months
- Noted improved noise conditions overall
- Asked for guidance on how to advise prospective home buyers regarding port noise.

10. Complaints received in last 6 months (previously circulated)

Jay Streatfield (Napier Port)

- A significant reduction in complaints was noted overall.
- Key points:
 - Low frequency ship noise remains the primary source of complaints
 - Notable vessels:
 - APL Scotland (12 complaints) and Seaspan Kyoto
 - These vessels have since been removed from service or rotation following engagement with shipping lines
 - Only 3 general noise complaints recorded (e.g. container handling, truck horns)
 - One complaint regarding visible emissions was clarified as scrubber discharge illuminated by lighting, creating the appearance of dust
- Discussion:
 - Peter Edmead commended the reports, noting they provide very useful data for tracking trends and issues
 - Kay Foley noted general noise complaints appear under-reported

- Napier Port emphasised that specific, detailed complaints help enable effective investigation and response. Residents should continue to log all noise types, not just ship noise

11. Other Business

- No formal items raised.

12. Actions

- Fleur Murray to:
 - Circulate proposed Terms of Reference principles
 - Engage with resident representatives on community engagement approach
- Residents encouraged to review the Terms of Reference ahead of the next meeting and consider any feedback or suggested changes.

13. Next Meeting

- Four months from now – July 2026.
- To include discussion on mitigation budgeting and priorities

Meeting closed: 5:07pm