Minutes

Port Noise Liaison Committee Meeting:
Napier Port Boardroom – 1530, Wednesday 12 August 2026

1. Attendance & Apologies

The meeting was opened at 15:39pm, with Chair Eileen von Dadelszen welcoming all attendees.

Committee members in attendance: Hannah Strauss (Napier Port), Jay Streatfield (Napier Port), David Broad (Napier Port), Adam Harvey (Napier Port), Chris Lonergan (Napier Port), Craig Fitzgerald (Marshall Day Acoustics), Ian Emmerson (User Representative), Paulina Wilhelm (NCC Manager City Development), Brooke Hemmings (NCC Policy Planner), Kay Foley (Resident representative), Peter Edmead (Resident representative), Alan Petersen (Resident representative)

2. Apologies

Councillor Keith Price (NCC), Fleur Murray (Napier Port), Ross Jackson (Resident representative), Maria Hernandez Mejia (HBRC representative)

Adopted (Moved: Jay Streatfield / Seconded: Peter Edmead)

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Minutes of the 10 March 2026 meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Adopted (Moved: Alan Petersen / Seconded: Adam Harvey)

4. Matters arising from previous meeting

No further matters arising.

5. Agenda Review

It was agreed to bring forward the Napier City District Plan and Port Activities updates to accommodate attendees who needed to leave early.

6. Napier City District Plan Update

Paulina Wilhelm, Brooke Hemmings (NCC)

NCC advised that work is progressing on resolving appeals relating to the Proposed District Plan.

Key points:

- 15 appeals were received, with several matters already resolved through direct discussions ahead of formal mediation.
- Discussions are continuing with appellants, with Environment Court-assisted mediation yet to begin.
- Timing remains dependent on availability of parties and the Environment Court.
- Council remains optimistic that a number of matters can be resolved without proceeding to hearings.
- Resolving appeals remains a priority ahead of wider RMA reform and new legislation.

In relation to Napier Port's appeal, it was noted that a consent order is being drafted by legal advisers. Once agreed, this can be submitted to the Environment Court for consideration.

7. Port Activities Update

Adam Harvey (Napier Port)

Adam provided an update on operational activity and projects across the Port:

- The former log storage area (E Area) at the western end of the Port has been used for major crane maintenance and is expected to return to container storage following completion of this work.
- Napier Port Transformation remains largely on track, although the planned operational changeover has moved from September to October due primarily to shipping delays affecting the arrival of trucks and trailers from China. Significant line marking and terminal layout changes are underway to support the new operating model.
- The transition to battery-electric trucks is expected to reduce operational noise from horizontal transport.
- The new ShoreTension mooring systems have been installed at 6 Wharf, with validation underway and vessels now returning to the wharf.
- Napier Port continues to raise ship noise directly with shipping lines. Adam and team are meeting shipping lines regularly and raising individual vessels where complaints or poor noise scores have been identified. A number of problematic vessels have rotated out of services in recent months.
- Also, senior port team members will meet shipping lines in Singapore in September, with noise remaining a key discussion topic.
- Cruise activity is expected to be lower again this coming season.
- Log volumes have been quieter over winter, reducing some night-time vessel activity.

Peter Edmead noted a significant improvement in noise experienced by residents over the past six months and acknowledged the work undertaken by Napier Port and others.

Discussion on the autonomous trucks included:

- The battery swap/charging facility is under construction.
- Napier Port is undertaking an extensive testing programme before autonomous operation, progressing from static through to dynamic trials involving approximately 1,500 testing scenarios to validate the technology and safety systems.
- Napier Port will be the first New Zealand port to introduce this technology, although similar technology is operating internationally.
- Marshall Day will look to monitor the difference in noise before and after the transition to battery-electric trucks.
- Future crane replacement is also expected to provide opportunities for further electrification and potential noise benefits.

8. Residents Update

Kay Foley, Peter Edmead (Resident representatives)

- Peter advised that a Facebook group has been established for residents interested in Port noise matters, following discussions after the previous committee meeting. Membership has grown following promotion by Napier Port, although engagement remains relatively limited. Peter noted the group remains a work in progress but has potential to provide a useful channel for residents to share feedback and receive information.

- Kay noted that some residents who had not previously sought mitigation had asked whether their properties fall within the Port Noise boundary. It was agreed this would be discussed further under the mitigation agenda item.

9. Complaints Review

Jay Streatfield (Napier Port)

Jay provided an overview of the complaints data:

- Low frequency ship noise complaints have more than halved compared with the previous reporting period. General noise complaints increased slightly, from three to five.
- A number of vessels generated low frequency noise complaints during the period, with Marshall Day continuing to use vessel noise scores to identify and prioritise problematic ships. Negative scores have a strong correlation with complaints and remain the key focus for engagement with shipping lines.
- One complaint related to emergency pavement works undertaken at night. The work was required to allow operations to continue the following day and was confirmed as a one-off event.

- Four general noise complaints were recorded over the four-month period. The associated noise events were relatively low and did not breach applicable noise limits.

Brief discussion:

- Kay Foley suggested the residents' Facebook page be used to provide advance notice of potentially disruptive overnight works and known noisy vessels. Napier Port agreed this would provide a useful additional communication channel.
- Craig Fitzgerald explained the vessel noise scoring system and noted that vessels with negative scores have a particularly strong correlation with complaints across New Zealand ports.

10. Terms of Reference

The updated draft Terms of Reference was discussed. It was confirmed that feedback provided by resident representatives following the previous meeting had been incorporated into the revised version.

Port Noise Management Plan

- The Terms of Reference provide for the committee to discuss and agree inputs into the Port Noise Management Plan.
- Napier Port intends to review the Management Plan once the District Plan appeals process is complete, with the committee involved in the review.
- Craig Fitzgerald noted that the plan is reviewed annually, although this does not necessarily result in changes each year. The next substantive review will incorporate relevant District Plan changes and best practice from other ports.

Meeting Minutes

- It was briefly noted that, given the length of time between committee meetings, publishing clearly identified unconfirmed minutes provides residents with timely visibility of discussions.

Finalisation of Terms of Reference

- Peter Edmead requested further time to review the revised version.
- Hannah Strauss suggested finalisation also be deferred until the District Plan appeals process is complete, as parts of the Terms of Reference are dependent on the final District Plan provisions.
- The committee agreed to defer final approval.

11. Annual Reports

Craig Fitzgerald (Marshall Day Acoustics)

Craig provided an overview of the annual low frequency ship noise work:

- Approximately 27 new container vessels were measured over the past year, with new arrivals identified through the monitoring system and assessed where practical.
- Noise scores continue to strongly correlate with complaint patterns, particularly for negatively scored vessels, and overall ship noise complaints have reduced across New Zealand ports.
- Ongoing engagement continues with shipping lines and international organisations, including efforts to raise awareness in Australia and support wider regional action, with the programme focused on identifying and addressing problematic vessels.

Craig provided an overview of the annual low frequency ship noise work:

- Noise levels remain broadly consistent with the past 15 years, with the latest year slightly quieter in terms of average and peak-period noise levels.
- Future work will include assessing and modelling the potential noise impacts and benefits of new battery-electric trucks and electric cranes.

Peter Edmead welcomed the results and noted the significant improvement experienced by residents around Bay View Road.

12. Mitigation

Hannah Strauss, Napier Port

An update was provided on the voluntary mitigation programme for properties within the 60–65 dB contour. Of 25 eligible properties:

- 21 have been completed.
- Two properties declined mitigation.
- One remains on hold, with attempts to contact the owner unsuccessful.
- One property is currently progressing through the mitigation process. (Funding has been set aside to complete the property currently underway.)

The committee also discussed potential future provisions relating to properties within the 55–60 dB contour under the Proposed District Plan:

- As these provisions remain subject to appeal, it was agreed that detailed discussion should be deferred until the Environment Court process is complete.
- Once the provisions are finalised, Napier Port intends to work with the committee to develop an appropriate process, which could form part of the revised Port Noise Management Plan.
- It was also confirmed that properties already mitigated under the existing programme are treated to achieve an appropriate internal noise level and take account of future modelled Port noise.

The committee discussed the approach to budgeting for residential noise mitigation:

- Kay Foley noted that greater visibility of mitigation funding and likely costs would help resident representatives understand the scale and timing of future mitigation.
- David Broad explained that mitigation funding is needs-based rather than a fixed annual pool. Funding is currently provided to complete eligible outstanding properties. There is no certainty at this stage that properties within the 55–60 dB contour will require mitigation, as the relevant District Plan provisions remain subject to appeal. Where exceptional circumstances arise, these can be brought to the committee for discussion and consideration as part of the normal committee and budgeting processes. Future discussions should focus on required outcomes and identified needs rather than solely on a fixed dollar allocation.
- The committee acknowledged that further clarity will be possible once the District Plan is operative.

13. Any Other Business

Royal Society presentation

- Peter Edmead suggested Napier Port present to the Royal Society Hawke's Bay on port noise monitoring and mitigation. The committee supported this, and David Broad confirmed Napier Port would support Craig Fitzgerald's involvement, potentially aligning with a future visit. The autonomous truck technology was also noted as a possible topic.

Resident port visit

- Kay Foley suggested a resident visit to the Port to see the autonomous truck technology and strengthen community engagement. Napier Port confirmed that its public Port tours are expected to return this summer, with timing dependent on the autonomous truck rollout programme. In addition, the Port will consider options for a targeted resident visit.

HBRC representation

- Kay raised the absence of a Hawke's Bay Regional Council representative from recent meetings. Napier Port advised that a new HBRC compliance officer, Maria, has recently started and will be invited to the next committee meeting.

Next meeting in four months' time – date to be confirmed. The Chair thanked members for their attendance and contributions.

Meeting closed: 4:30pm