

ARCSOPT Committee & Wider Membership Meeting

05 March 2026



ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE COMPANIES, SHIP OPERATORS, PORTS & TERMINALS PO BOX 350, Adamstown NSW 2289	
Committee & Wider Membership Meeting Minutes	
Date:	05 March 2026
Location:	MS Teams
Record of attendance and apologies	
John Finch (Chairperson)	Port Authority New South Wales
Megan Suurenbroek (Secretary)	MER Solutions
Port Authorities Sub-group	
Carl Kavina (Committee Member)	Flinders Ports
Savio Fernandes (Committee Member)	Fremantle Ports Authority
Rohan Wadhwa	Kimberley Ports Authority
Kyaw Oo	Mid West Ports Authority
Myron Fernandes (Committee Member)	Port Authority New South Wales
Warwick Laing	Port of Melbourne
Behrouz Daeizadeh (Committee Member)	Pilbara Ports Authority
Terminals Sub-group	
Renae Harmsworth (Committee Member)	Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal
Veronica Keelan (Committee Member)	Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal
David Power	Darwin Port Operations
Mark Beale (Committee Member)	Port Kembla Coal Terminal
Lana Denn	Port Botany Operations
Sean Boyle	Port Waratah Coal Services
Resource Companies Sub-group	
Katrina Harvison (Committee Member)	BHP
Girish Shahani	Cargill Ocean Transportation
Raul Sagar (Committee Member)	Rio Tinto
Gregory Braithwaite	Rio Tinto

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Ship Operators Sub-group	
Constantinos Doucas	Alassia NewShips Management Inc.
Swapnodeep Mondal (Committee Member)	Anglo Eastern Ship Management
Mehedi Hasan	Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement (S) Pte Ltd
Steph Denyer	BlueScope Steel
Dimitrijs Adamecs	Columbia Shipmanagement Ltd
Vinod George	CMB Tech
Shane Pinto	Dockendale Ship Management
Neil Dourado	Dockendale Ship Management
Gerard D'Souza	Eastern Shipping Shipping
Antonis Nikoloutsopoulos	Golden Union
Mandar Shete	Great Ship
Catherine Prifti	Laskaridis Shipping
Sungjin An	Mitsui O.S.K Lines (MOL)
Mukesh Singh	Mitsui O.S.K Lines (MOL)
Despoina Petsiou	Navilands
Hongnan Zhang	Navilands
Evangelos Petromanolakis	Navilands
George Thanopoulos	Neda Maritime
Yujiro Iwasaki	NYK Group
Simon Gravenall	Oceania Horizon
Rodrigues Ornelas	Oldendorff Carriers
Deepak Gupta	Oldendorff Carriers
Sunit Sikand	OSM Thome
Annamalai Chandrasekaran	OSM Thome
Pantelis Ouzounoglou	Starbulk SA
Jonathon Willis (Committee Member)	Synergy Group
Gautam Kar	Synergy Group

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Manoj Tyagi	Tomini Shipping
Pradeep Bajpai	Tomini Shipping
Christo Anthoulakis	Thenamaris
Konstantinos Petrocheilos	Thenamaris
George Laou (Committee Member)	TMS
George Evdaimon (Committee Member)	TMS
Manoj Paradkar	Wilhelmsen Ahrenkiel Ship Management
Kulwan Singh	Wilhelmsen Ship Management
Mark Cardenas	Wilhelmsen Ship Management
JaanPeng Chin	Wilhelmsen Ship Management
Keyur Mhatre	Wilhelmsen Ship Management
Sumit Bhatia	V Ships
Associates	
Ashley Cage	Ben Line
Munaf Shaikh	Blue Visby
Ramendra Kumar Pandey	Liberian Registry
Taylor Wamberg	Lloyds Register International
Dave Jordan	Lloyds Register International
Jack Manning	MER Solutions
Yatin Gangla	MER Solutions
Corey Carless	MER Solutions
Alex Schultz-Altmann	Maritime & Corporate Administrators of the Republic of the Marshall Islands
Richard Chettiar	Propel Marine
Stuart Walker	Rightship
Hayden Latchford	Rightship
Siva Shanmugam	Rightship
Christopher Saunders	Rightship
Gamaliel Wee	Wilhelmsen Ships Service

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Laurice Ciubal	Wilhelmsen Ships Service	
Veronika Aspelund	Wilhelmsen Ships Service	
Apologies		
Nick Munro (Committee Member)	Abbot Point Operations	
Damon Knight (Committee Member)	Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal	
Vivek Venugopal (Committee Member)	NYK	
David Kelly (Committee Member)	Roy Hill	
Camilla Eie (Committee Member)	South 32	
Mick Wall	Tas Ports	
Kent Whitehouse (Committee Member)	Wiggins Island Coal Export Terminal	
Item 1	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	
1.1	<p>Previous Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the Committee Meeting held on 10 December 2025 are available on the ARCSOPT website - https://arcsopt.org/arcsopt-meetings/</p>	
Item 2	Technical Proposals & Guidelines Update - https://arcsopt.org/publications/	
2.1	<p>Technical Guideline 03/2023 – Marine Pilot Transfer Arrangements</p> <p>Feedback was received regarding how to align the incoming IMO regulations with this guideline. Progress has been limited, primarily due to ongoing investigations into rope sizing. Certain IMO requirements are challenging for ship crews to implement, particularly as the safe working load for manila ropes has been increased. Alternative rope types are currently being tested, specifically for securing purposes. Additional data is being gathered before any updates are incorporated into the guideline. This remains an ongoing matter.</p>	Ongoing
Item 3	Outstanding Action Items	

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<p>3.1</p>	<p>Standardisation of Physical Inspections Inspection Companies are progressing this initiative, with workshops currently underway.</p> <p>PPA have introduced a harmonised safety assurance framework established for vessels calling at the Port of Port Hedland. These requirements introduce a single, standardised process across all Port Hedland terminals. Effective 1 May 2026, all vessels calling at the Port of Port Hedland must comply through the mandatory use of:</p> <p>a) Port Hedland Vessel Vetting Form, and b) Port Hedland Pre-Berthing Checklist.</p> <p>From this date, all vessels are required to submit the PPA Vessel Vetting Form and complete the pre-berthing checklist for each terminal. Submissions are made to individual terminals; however, the content is standardised across all terminals.</p> <p>A machinery physical inspection requirement is also included as part of this framework.</p> <p>For further information, refer to Port of Port Hedland Marine Safety Bulletin 02/26, available on the PPA website: https://www.pilbaraports.com.au/ports/port-of-port-hedland/safety-and-security/marine-safety-bulletins</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>3.2</p>	<p>Prevalence of Falsified Pilot ladder Certificates DNV has been the primary classification society engaged on this issue. They have taken action by notifying their suppliers and withdrawing approval for certain ladder types. Over the past six months, the number of incidents involving falsified certificates have reduced, with only two cases identified. From an IHMA perspective, work is underway in collaboration with OCIMF on initiatives related to man-overboard risks, which will also consider pilot transfer arrangements.</p> <p>During a visit to Fremantle Port, one shipping company identified concerns with supplied pilot ladders. A subsequent fleet-wide review revealed that nearly 40% of their ladders were associated with incorrect or incomplete certification. Across a fleet of approximately 130 ladders, around 40 were found to have deficiencies—not necessarily falsified certificates, but missing or incomplete documentation, such as the absence of class approval or verification. The company has since streamlined procurement and is now working with four manufacturers with no identified issues.</p> <p>This issue is more prevalent and represents a significant concern for shipping operators. In response, many companies are undertaking targeted campaigns to verify the certification and compliance of their pilot ladders.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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3.3	<p>Funding Framework A decision paper outlining the proposed funding framework will be circulated to the Committee for review and endorsement.</p> <p>ARCSOPT has the potential to strengthen its influence and engagement with international and regulatory bodies such as the International Association of Classification Societies, International Maritime Organisation, Maritime Safety Committee, and Flag States. To support this, ARCSOPT could consider establishing a more permanent management structure and expanding its engagement with industry and regulatory stakeholders.</p> <p>Action: A survey will be circulated to gather feedback on this.</p>	Ongoing
Item 4 Committee Update		
4.1	<p>General updates from Committee Subgroup Chairs</p> <p>1. Ship Operators Recent engagement with Intercargo, PPA, and other shipping companies has been positive. A key takeaway is that information is now being shared more broadly across organisations that were previously not reached. The support provided by Intercargo in this area is appreciated.</p> <p>2. Port Authorities Nil to update.</p> <p>3. Terminal Operators There has been a change in the membership lineup, which will be formally communicated. Damon Knight from DBCT will be taking on the Sub-Chair responsibilities, bringing fresh perspective and valuable experience to the group.</p> <p>A number of terminal sessions have been held over recent months focusing on key areas. Key focus areas for the next quarter include vessel access, standardisation of gangways, terminal standards, and the safe landing of accommodation ladders.</p> <p>There has also been an increase in alternative fuel vessels, introducing a new range of hazards at terminals. For example, at the Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Terminal, a ship loader made contact with a vessel's sail. This highlights the importance of ensuring alignment with current standards and expectations. Given the relevance of this topic, any lessons learned from related investigations should be shared where possible.</p> <p>4. Resource Companies Nil to report.</p>	
Item 5 Safety Share		
5.1	<p>A presentation was delivered by AMSA and the Department of Transport on the emergency management of vessels and places of refuge for ships operating in Australian waters. An action for the next meeting is to share key learnings from this exercise.</p>	

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Item 6	Committee Financials
6.1	Nil to report.
Item 7	Email Correspondence Received
	Expressions of Interest to Join Committee
7.1	<p>All committee groups have been advised that, in line with the Terms of Reference, a rotation of approximately 25–50% of subcommittee members is required. Expressions of interest are therefore being sought, with some groups already identifying changes.</p> <p>The Shipping Company subgroup will formally approach its members with the intention of refreshing one or two positions within the current membership.</p> <p>Similarly, members of the Resources and Port Authority subgroup are invited to submit expressions of interest.</p> <p>The updated committee membership will be announced at the next in-person meeting.</p>
Item 8	Other business & closing
	Planning for In Person Meeting 2026
8.1	<p>The 2026 Pilbara Ports Safe Ships Safe Ports Forum has been confirmed for Tuesday 20 October and Wednesday 21 October 2026. To support attendance, we propose holding the ARCLOPT In-Person Meeting either on the Friday prior to the PPA Forum or on the Friday immediately following it. This would enable our international members to participate in both forums within the same week.</p> <p>Survey will be sent out welcoming your feedback on your preferred date and location:</p> <p>Date Options: Option 1: Friday, 16th October (prior to the PPA Forum) Option 2: Friday, 23rd October (following the PPA Forum)</p> <p>Location Options: Location 1: Melbourne Location 2: Brisbane</p>

John Finch - Chairperson	Megan Suurenbroek - Secretary
	