

**Port Botany Expansion
Community Consultative Committee**

Date: 5 November, 2008

Meeting number: 18

Paul Pickering - Community Representative
 Nancy Hillier – Community Representative
 John Burgess - Community Representative
 Paul Shepherd – City of Botany Bay Council
 Shane Hobday – Sydney Ports Corporation
 Linda Coburn – Baulderstone Hornibrook
 Vince Newton – Baulderstone Hornibrook
 Margaret Harvie – Baulderstone Hornibrook
 Quentin Pitts – Baulderstone Hornibrook
 Peter O’Leary – Sydney Ports Corporation
 Marika Calfas – Sydney Ports Corporation
 Jessica Berry – Sydney Ports Corporation
 Roberta Ryan - Chairperson
 Jill Yeomans - Minutetaker
 Bronwyn Englaro – Randwick City Council

Apologies: Paul Jerogin; Neil Melvin, Neil Brener

Not present:

Item	Issue	Action	By whom	When
1	Minutes of the last meeting			
1.1	2.2 of previous minutes. JB investigated - not relevant to the Port Botany/SPC expansion works. The pile is a steel pipe replacing the Starboard navigation marker in the vicinity of Molineux Point.			
1.2	2.3 of previous minutes. PS met with VN after meeting. No further progress. Another meeting to take place. Council will ensure that proper processes are followed with respect to approvals regarding the works on Foreshore Road.	BH representative to meet with Botany Council	VN	ASAP
1.3	4.6 of previous minutes. Matrix as part of the monthly report has been sent to members prior to meeting as requested.			
1.4	5.5 of previous minutes. PS has distributed a copy of the SPC/Orica workshop finalised minutes.			

2	Update on construction and activities (VN)			
2.1	Dredging has continued and will continue for some time yet. Dredging program currently goes until March 2010. Compaction has started. Dredging for the new recreational boat channel off Foreshore Beach has commenced which will have to be completed before the next switch of recreational vessels. Stage two diversion is currently programmed for mid December 2008.			
2.2	PP – noted that since the speed restrictions have been applied on Foreshore Road, neighbours have commented positively on the lowering and improvement of noise in the area. JB asked if noise tracking data actually confirmed this or was it more of a perception.			
3	Update on communication activities including complaints (LC)			
3.1	LC confirmed that members have received the Recreation Area Q&A prior to this meeting			
3.2	LC advised that there seems to be a need to clarify the Marine Notice to the public especially with regards to vessels - <i>a vessel is classed as 'any craft that can be used as a means of transport, eg kayaks, surf ski's, windsurfer etc'</i> . A number of communications will be released in the next week, highlighting the restrictions on access for vessels from Foreshore Beach. These communications clearly point out that vessels are only able to use the designated navigation channel from the Penrhyn Estuary boat ramp, and clarifies the language of the Marine Notice that has been in place since June of this year. It has been emerging that the information needed clarifying as some vessels do not think they are included in the definition as 'all vessels'. Signage will be put in place at the two access points to the beach and an advertisement will appear in next	Investigate if there are ways of making Foreshore Beach public access points more obvious	LC	Next meeting

	<p>week's local paper. PS commented that Beach Watch has currently stopped monitoring the beach due to a perceived lack of access to the beach. Council tried to show them where the access was and had difficulty locating the access.</p> <p>LC is addressing this and is looking into ways to make the access points more obvious.</p>			
	<p>The next pedestrian access will be at this stage in December. Signage notifying of changes will be erected prior to the changes taking place.</p>			
3.3	<p>Navigational Channel - new buoys and markers are being installed following new advice from NSW Maritime. Updating the Static Sign at the boat ramp - the image is being updated to show markers more clearly. A full banner will be installed in the reversing bay to ensure that the requirements of the navigation channel are clearly visible. Have also been working with JB on improving operations in the car park.</p>			
3.4	<p>25 students from Honeywell Engineering Summer School will be visiting site next month. They are Year11/12 students looking at a career in engineering.</p>			
3.5	<p>JB raised issue of need for improved and acceptable standards for markers in the navigation channel. He is hoping that the new minimum standards to be set by Maritime will be vast improvement on current minimum standards. Would like to see proper port and starboard markers on either side of the channel and much closer aligned than they are currently. There has already been an accident in the channel which is currently being investigated by NSW Maritime.</p>			
3.6	<p>Dog trainers continued to access the prohibited areas/construction zone despite correspondence and</p>			

	<p>information being provided to them. A stronger letter was sent to advise it is a construction zone and entry is prohibited. The dog trainer called and complained voicing his confusion regarding which areas were available to him. This has now been clarified for them. JB has spoken with another dog trainer and clarified the available areas. Fence lines have been extended and additional signage has been installed to advise the public of areas that are prohibited.</p>			
3.7	<p>The second complaint received was regarding recreational boats fishing in from the recreational/navigation channel, it was noted that they still had their engines running. It is recognised that this is not an appropriate practice, although technically acceptable. LC to pass on information to JB when incidents occur in the future.</p>	<p>Information to be passed onto JB when these incidents occur</p>	LC	As necessary
3.8	<p>PS advised that Botany Council has not received any complaints since the last meeting.</p>			
3.9	<p>The next newsletter is planned to be distributed in December and should cover through to early 2009.</p>			
3.10	<p>LC is looking to put up a public display at the Botany Pool to provide information to the public.</p>	<p>Public display on the project to be provided at Botany Pool</p>	LC	Timing to be agreed with Council
4	<p>Environmental monitoring Monthly Report (QP)</p>			
4.1	<p>The environmental programs are going well. The suggestion from the last meeting to create a matrix has been picked up. The matrix is based on a low, medium and high criteria based on the goals/risk management and general knowledge. Soils are being tested regularly. No acid sulphate results to date, however BH are prepared to deal with it, if necessary. Attempting to minimise number of birds in the area by covering</p>			

	<p>bins, installing flagging, keeping the dredge material stored on a steeper slope to discourage bird activity. Have been working cooperatively with National Parks and Wildlife to gain advice on how to continue to manage the issue. Will continue to implement deterrents as needed.</p> <p>No complaints on dust control this month. Keeping a close eye on this.</p> <p>Heritage - additional potential heritage items have been unearthed. Archaeologists and SPC have been called in to check these and are currently assessing these.</p> <p>Marine Mammals - no dolphins or other marine mammals have been observed this past month other than the local seal. Dredging staff are checking the silt curtain daily.</p> <p>No noise complaints this month. Have not noticed a drop in noise due to existing ambient noise. No complaints during recent nighttime activities No odour complaints.</p> <p>Saltmarsh transplanting - we have increased the density per metre. Are not recording any loss in volume of plants.</p> <p>There was some minor erosion due to the removal of mangroves - this will be monitored.</p> <p>Shorebird diversity has increased this month, despite fox tracks and cats.</p> <p>Waste management - tracking all waste and setting up the recycling system.</p> <p>Water quality - correlation - monthly between NTU and TSS turbidity as requested. Higher levels of nutrients were noted however, this is not unusual in these circumstances.</p>			
4.2	PP queried whether the increased levels of nutrients were due to sewerage overflows. QP responded	Median level of nutrients and ANZECC	QP	Next monthly monitoring

	<p>that the levels of overflow and nutrients are within the normal range but can increase with high rainfall—and urban storm water runoff carrying fertilizers and other urban pollutants.</p> <p>PS queried what the average nutrient level is for the area against the current nutrient level. QP stated that this information is already being collected and collated. MC noted that a median level will be more representative for recording. CCC agreed. PS clarified that a graph showing current information with a historical median line over this would be beneficial. MC noted that the median value varies for dry and wet weather conditions. PP requested further information on what spikes in nutrient levels are an indication of and explanations of each of the nutrients and what they are a symptom of. QP advised that this can be due to a number of contributors and difficult to specifically identify. MC commented that rainfall data might be useful to be included in the data to compare against the levels.</p> <p>QP will produce further data with this information for the next meeting</p> <p>BE requested a map showing positions of the monitoring sites. QP noted that this is available and will be distributed. BE also asked for the ANZECC aquatic habitat protection (percent) levels to be included in the comparisons. QP.</p> <p>LC reminded the group that the October monitoring report will be distributed in about the second week of November</p> <p>PS and JB queried the possible reason for the level of zinc to have reached a highpoint in May 08 almost exceeding the ANZECC level</p>	<p>levels to be recorded on graph</p> <p>To make available rainfall data in the next report</p> <p>A new monitoring sites map to be provided</p>	<p>QP</p> <p>QP</p>	<p>report.</p> <p>Next monthly monitoring report</p> <p>Next meeting</p>
4.3	<p>MC distributed the latest seagrass mapping results. The pre-construction seagrass mapping report will be released on the website soon. The</p>			

	<p>yellow dots on the map show locations where seagrass were found in the most recent mapping. A summary table is also available to show how seagrass has changed over time. MC noted that there has been a significant reduction over time with the total area of seagrass now at 352 (m2) – down from 47114 (m2)in 2006 The relocation of 100 (m2) of Posidonia has been completed and early indications are that it is doing well. PS noted that this is the only seagrass that has gone up in numbers. MC clarified that as the grasses were removed for transplanting, more grasses were located buried underneath sediment and these were also transplanted. BE queried whether this is possible with other species. MC advised that this is possible however it is more likely with Posidonia due to the long leaves.</p> <p>PP queried whether any plants were removed from the recreational area. MC advised that the plants were only transported from areas that are being affected by the construction.</p> <p>JB expressed concern that increased wave action was a likely factor behind the burying of the seagrass with sediment and its substantive reduction over the past 2 years</p>			
5	Project Approval Modifications (MC)			
5.1	<p>MC advised there are currently two modifications being planned. The first is that in the VAMP there were two rest points off the pedestrian path. In the design process it has been discovered that one of these points would not be able to meet the disabled access requirements due to the slope. There will now be one rest point on the path and a formal lookout point off the bridge. The Master Plan will be revised to show this however the VAMP will not be reissued. PS noted that the viewing point off the bridge is a positive outcome. PS queried whether these points will be like the ones on Prince of Wales Drive. MC advised that they will</p>	<p>SPC to clean up the existing observation platform at Molineux Point.</p>	SH	ASAP

	<p>be lookouts with interpretation. JB queried whose responsibility it is to clean up the existing viewing platform at POW Drive as it has deteriorated and was overgrown. JB noted that a Clean Up Australia Day event held by SPC picked up a lot of rubbish from areas along Yarra Beach and Molineux Point.</p>			
5.2	<p>The second modification is a Section 96 modification. It is a requirement of the Port Freight Logistics Plan that there be a 600 metre rail siding available for the new terminal. With Patrick expected to secure 18 Hectares of the new terminal, the length of the proposed rail siding at the rear of the terminal is significantly less than 600m. The modification looks at making the currently planned non-operational siding which is parallel to the rear of the Patrick terminal into an operational siding, as an option. JB noted that this would make more sense and ironically was consistent with what the community suggested should have been the preferred track route many years ago. MC advised that the impacts of this change are currently being investigated. PS raised previous discussions regarding the location of the siding and that SPC were very vocal about having the siding parallel to the berth face. PS also raised that the siding not being along Foreshore Road would be a positive outcome as it would not impact on the bird sanctuary.. SH commented that it would be a more efficient to have the siding along the rear of the expansion, however the new modification is a valid option. MC clarified that it is only more efficient to have it along the expansion if there is a 600 metre siding. PS asked whether the siding along Foreshore Rd would remain. MC responded that it may remain as a future option but that a cumulative impact assessment would be required if the modification was to propose this.</p>	<p>Information will be released when drafted.</p>		
6	<p>Penrhyn Road boat ramp, security issues (Shane)</p>			

	<p>SH advised that in early September the police started reporting large congregations of car enthusiasts at the Boat Ramp on Sunday nights. On each occasion there was also an increase in crime in the area. The Police requested the site be locked during this time to avoid this congregation. SPC met with relevant parties and have now installed gates with the gate on the inbound lane being closed from 6pm-10pm on Sunday nights. Any legitimate users of the Boat Ramp can either gain access via the outbound lane or request the Police open the gate (a sign with the telephone number for Mascot Police is located at the entry to the Boat Ramp). Car enthusiasts accessing the Boat Ramp via the outbound lane will be booked. JB commented that this seems to be working well. RR noted that this is a good example of local cooperation. PP queried whether this will happen with the new boat ramp. JB advised that it was likely to be a problem given the proximity of the new boat ramp to the M5 corridor servicing the west. SH advised that this will be investigated and developed.</p>	<p>SPC and local boating authorities to develop a security plan for the new boat ramp to avoid this issue again.</p>		
7	Other Matters			
7.1	<p>SPC to circulate an email asking for available dates for the Christmas lunch and find a majority. JB to organise.</p>			
	<p>RR requested that people contact her regarding any suggestions for a new CCC member who would be available for meetings, a local resident and access to networks to disseminate information through.</p>	<p>Nominations requested for new CCC member</p>	All	ASAP
	<p>PS raised the navigation markers in Sir Joseph Banks Parks. MC advised that this is still flagged as a potential modification and potential impacts are being investigated. Following recent trials on a ship simulator in Port Klang</p>			

	Malaysia it has been identified that for operational reasons the proposed navigation aids need to be higher and further away. The environmental assessment is currently being prepared. MC advised that SPC will use a cherry picker to prepare a photo montage of the new navigation aid structures.			
8	Next Meeting			
	SPC offered to host a Christmas lunch for CCC member in early December. SH suggested having the next meeting in the morning followed by a Christmas lunch. NH raised that this may not be possible for some members.			
	Wednesday 10th December 3.30pm			

These minutes have been endorsed by the Chair, Roberta Ryan.

