

**Port Botany Expansion  
Community Consultative Committee  
Minutes**

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2010

**Meeting number:** 31

**Attendees:**

Roberta Ryan – Chairperson  
Neil Melvin – Community Representative  
Mick Costelloe – Community Representative  
John Burgess – Community Representative  
Paul Pickering – Community Representative  
Michael Kavanagh – Business Representative  
Bronwyn Englaro – Randwick City Council  
Dave Packer – Baulderstone  
Quentin Pitts – Baulderstone  
Vanessa Tierman – Baulderstone  
Marika Calfas – Sydney Ports Corporation  
Kathy Lloyd – Sydney Ports Corporation  
Sandra Spate - Minutetaker

**Apologies:** Steven Poulton – City of Botany Bay Council; Shane Hobday – Sydney Ports Corporation;  
Nancy Hillier – Community Representative;

**Not present:**

Item	Issue	Action	By whom	When
1	<b>Welcome and apologies</b>			
1.1	Apologies were received from Steven Poulton – City of Botany Bay Council; Shane Hobday – Sydney Ports Corporation; Nancy Hillier – Community Representative;			
2	<b>Update on construction and activities</b>			
2.1	<u>Presentation by BHJDN (DP)</u>  Installation of Counterforts is progressing well with units on the north berm expected to be completed by the end of June and all by mid-August. Sand compaction is taking place on the reclaimed area, to be followed by construction of a cope beam on this area the front of which will be pre-cast. Dredging has been taking place for four weeks in the Penrhyn Estuary. This is expected to be finished this week. It is a cut and fill with most being deposited in the estuary and the unsuitable material going to the			

	<p>dump pit.</p> <p>In the estuary construction has commenced on the new bridge, with piling finished this week. Girders should be installed in August.</p> <p>Service works are expected to be complete by the end of the year. Repairs are being undertaken to the pavement at the corner of Foreshore Rd and the boat ramp area. These are awaiting RTA approval. Navigation aids have been installed.</p>			
	Questions and discussion			
2.2	<p>PP asked how the beach configuration was expected to be given the recent erosion on Foreshore Beach. He reported significant recent erosion exposed large aggregate which posed a danger to safety. He noted erosion in front of the stormwater drains as well and asked whether they could be extended and act as a groyne to hold sand in position, in a scalloped formation.</p> <p>JB reported that a group has been raised to look at issues in the boat ramp area. An independent consultant was being brought in to look at design, as well as wave control which is a factor in beach erosion. He also had concerns with stormwater discharge causing erosion. In rainy conditions water is still draining via the boat ramp.</p> <p>MC referred to the history of beach design and assessment. The original beach original was at an angle to waves. It was never hit at 90 degrees. You only get a stable beach if waves are hitting at 90 degrees. The Millstream end is still not 90 degrees and won't be. In recognition of this ongoing sand movement it is planned every five years to take sand from the Millstream groyne and move it back to the top end. This will be an ongoing process. However, during construction there has been more sand than anticipated, resulting in the recent two week beach closure. The beach will always move, but will be assessed again when it settles. With the stormwater drains, when there is no rain they become blocked with sand. Rain blows the sand out. SPC had looked at extending the drains further out but encountered difficulties with Sydney Water relating to design requirements, responsibility for maintenance, capacity of the system and potential to impact upstream, so a decision was taken to leave them as</p>			

	<p>they are. When sand is pushed out in wet weather erosion occurs which stops when rain stops and sand evens out again. There are problems currently with stones around the drains being exposed but when rain stops stones will become covered again. PP suggested that the result may not be known till the terminal revetment wall is complete. MC suggested as this wall is set back from the breakwater it shouldn't make a lot of difference. JB reported that he was unaware of the issue of erosion and discussion of beach sand movement in any of the construction documentation and he doesn't recall previous discussion of the issue. He noted the stones are ex building material from the original port construction and were previously covered by 2m of sand.</p> <p>MC reported it is discussed in Chapter 31 of the EIS. JB suggested he didn't think extending the drains the solution. Instead drains should be at Springvale St which he has raised previously but this has been rejected. He is also skeptical in regard wave studies. He will be interested in whether wave action goes from the revetment wall to the airport and back to the beach which he suggests is likely.</p> <p>PP suggested this discussion be referred to the Neighbourhood Liaison Group as the community needs to be aware of these issues.</p> <p>MC responded that the CCC is the group dealing with design and construction issues. It could be referred to the NLG at a later date.</p> <p>KL suggested it could be raise as a note to the NLG.</p>	The issue of beach erosion and ongoing treatment be noted at the NLG meeting	SPC	
2.3	<p>PP asked who takes responsibility for the concrete which is to be replaced at Foreshore Rd. DP replied it is a Boulderstone responsibility. The problem was caused by a delay in concrete delivery. The trucks need to be 30 minutes apart. If there is a delay one section which has been laid dries too much so there is not a good join.</p>			
2.4	<p>MC asked whether pilots have been made aware of the lead lights. He reported that had been discussion amongst pilots about what the lights look like. PP asked whether lights will impact on residents. DP replied pilots had been notified. There shouldn't be impacts on residents as they shine only one way.</p>			

3	Environmental monitoring report			
3.1	<p><u>Presentation by BHJDN (QP)</u></p> <p>There are no significant issues from the monitoring report.</p> <p>No acid sulphate soils.</p> <p>No bird hazards.</p> <p>No heritage issues.</p> <p>No sea mammals.</p> <p>There was one day time noise complaint.</p> <p>Weeding has taken place in the terrestrial area, with no impact on the saltmarsh.</p> <p>No dust exceedences.</p> <p>There has been no dive monitoring of seagrass due to low visibility, but hopefully this will be undertaken this month. The big dredge has now gone from the area.</p> <p>Sediment monitoring in the estuary has indicated a slight decrease.</p> <p>There have been four shorebird species noted, a little less than last year, with not as many double breasted plovers.</p> <p>All concrete waste is being recycled on site.</p> <p>There have been no water quality exceedences and no significant turbidity readings.</p> <p>DECC visited the site on May 18 and were impressed with controls in place.</p>			
	Questions and discussion			
3.2	<p>JB noted a spike in the report for one of the toxic materials.</p> <p>MC noted it was for copper, shown in April. It is from a background monitoring site.</p> <p>PP suggested the possibility of it coming from ships being scraped.</p> <p>JB noted copper is not used.</p> <p>QP suggested it is difficult to identify the source, but was possibly related to increased rainfall.</p> <p>MC noted the location of that monitor picks up results from the Georges and Cooks Rivers. It is used as background monitoring to compare port measurements to.</p>			
3.3	<p>PP put the issue of seagrass on the agenda at the request of a member of the community. He tabled the following questions: Is <i>Posidonia australias</i></p>			

	<p>surviving amongst the protect seagrass? How important is this species to the local fish populations? In 2009 the Fisheries Scientific committee proposed to list the seagrass <i>Posidonia australis</i> in port Hacking, Botany Bay, Sydney Harbour, Pittwater, Brisbane Waters and Lake Macquarie (NSW) as <i>ENDANGERED POPULATIONS</i> in part 2 Schedule 4 of the Act. Will the proposed listing of <i>Posidonia australis</i> impact on boat user areas and Foreshore Beach? Has beach erosion impacted seagrass? JB noted that due to adverse weather and turbidity, there had been no proper report on seagrasses since last year. He couldn't find sediment reports but is concerned that with dredging and excessive turbidity there may be little seagrass left as it would have received little light and oxygen.</p> <p>QP reported that there were three small patches of seagrass when monitoring started. It had been decreasing for 10 years. It is surviving, but barely and currently provides no significant habitat for fish. Hopefully the flushing channel will allow seagrass to take hold.</p> <p>JB noted that <i>Posidonia australis</i> is on the verge of being declared an endangered species. It is a broader phenomenon than the Bay but there is virtually none on this side of Botany Bay.</p> <p>MC noted the importance of seagrass to local fish populations would be included on interpretative signage to be installed. She distributed copies to the meeting. It is an important nursery habitat but seagrass at Foreshore Beach was not significant at the beginning of construction, and had already been in decline. The ecologist indicated there was no seagrass meadow. <i>Posidonia australis</i> is the species of seagrass which takes longest to grow. <i>Helofila</i> is the quickest to establish, then <i>Zostr</i>a, with <i>Posidonia</i> having the long growing time. There is more on the southern side of the Bay. The 100 sq metres taken out here was by hand and transplanted to the southern side of Botany Bay. It is still too early to see if this is successful but there are indications it may be.</p>			
3.4	<p>JB also noted damage from stormwater drains to planting areas at the estuary.</p> <p>QP hasn't noted damage to terrestrial plantings.</p> <p>JB replied that soil has washed away as well as</p>			

	<p>plantings. It is named Floodvale St because it is a floodplain. There must be a better way to stop erosion here.</p>			
3.5	<p>PP asked whether dead red crabs may be due to stormwater, possibly contaminated by Orica. MC replied that the dead crabs seemed to be a one off incident. It will continue to be monitored. It has not been observed previously or been more widespread which would have been expected if Orica was the source of the impact. PP asked if work was done with Orica to test surface water. He asked if sediment plates were tested to determine what they contain. MC replied that sediment plates aren't tested. It is groundwater that Orica monitors. Orica continues to check bore holes and have installed more for monitoring wells for groundwater. PP noted a dark sediment in run off. MC replied that dark sediment is not unusual.</p>			
4	<p><b>Update on communication activities including complaints</b></p>			
4.1	<p><u>Presentation by BHJDN (VT)</u></p> <p>Notifications included the Foreshore Beach closure; installation of Navigation Aids; and Foreshore Road pavement repairs. Advertisements were for: Foreshore Beach Closure and the Foreshore Road Pavement Repairs. Reports issued were Environmental Monitoring Reports for February, March and April and Grade Separation Management Plans. There have been three complaints since last meeting. One regarded the appearance and location of navigational aids, another related to night time activity at the boatramp and "hoon" behaviour and the third was in regard to noise and vibration related to dredging. Issues and Activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dynamic Compaction – 24 hour shift.</li> <li>- Foreshore Road Repairs and traffic diversions</li> <li>- Installation of RTA bridge – ongoing traffic impacts</li> <li>- Ongoing damage to public facilities at the boat ramp.</li> </ul>			

	Questions and discussion			
4.2	<p>NM asked why dredging would make noise. VT reported it turned out to be vibration on the house rather than noise. It was resolved in the end. Noise monitoring was offered but refused.</p> <p>QP noted that noise monitoring went ahead anyway but there was no construction noise heard. The vibration was not substantial vibration.</p> <p>MK asked whether neighbors had been approached to gauge their reaction. VT reported that they hadn't but no neighbors had complained.</p>			
4.3	<p>PP noted that with the navigation aids in the park, people have approached him to ask that the temporary access road be retained.</p> <p>MC reported that it is already being removed today. It was noted this is an issue for Council.</p>			
4.4	<p>JB reported that regarding anti social activity at the boat ramp, SH has been in touch with local area command (Mascot area command). Sunday nights are a problem. A hard line needs to be drawn now to prevent issues in future. Police are aware and there have been meetings on the issue.</p>			
5	<b>Grade separation update</b>			
5.1	<p>KL reported that approval has been obtained from the Department of Planning for the Environmental Management Plans. Frank van den Brink thanked the committee for their prompt responses and input. Traffic diversions are waiting on the level crossing on the Inter-terminal Access Road.</p>			
6	<b>Other Matters/Next meeting – 31 August 2010</b>			
6.1	<p>MC reported that following discussions at a previous meeting about fish life in the Bay, he had witnessed two large sharks alongside a government boat in May. He noted sharks only operate in an area where there is something to eat. .</p> <p>JB reported that since April schools of salmon have been around Yarra Bay and Bare Island. Inside these there have been small tailor and small pilchards. There have been a number of bronze whalers seen along the coast.</p>			
6.2	<p>MC noted comments from overseas that recent exercises around response to aircraft accidents were</p>			

	not well planned and could have resulted in loss of life. He hoped SPC weren't involved. MC reported SPC's involvement was limited to giving permission to use the boat ramp and the area.			
6.3	The next meeting will be on August 31 at 3.30pm. MC gave her apologies for this meeting. BE reported that Ross Anthony would be Randwick Council representative attending meetings.			

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RR', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.