

**Port Botany Expansion  
Community Consultative Committee  
Minutes**

**Date:** 1 March, 2011

**Meeting number:** 34

**Attendees:**

Roberta Ryan (RR) – Chairperson  
 Neil Melvin (NM) – Community Representative  
 John Burgess (JB) – Community Representative  
 Nancy Hillier (NH) – Community Representative  
 David Packer – Baulderstone  
 Quentin Pitts (QP) – Baulderstone  
 Vanessa Tiernan (VT) – Baulderstone  
 Marika Calfas(MC) – Sydney Ports Corporation  
 Kathy Lloyd (KL) – Sydney Ports Corporation  
 Frank Van Den Brink (FVDB)– Sydney Ports Corporation  
 Shane Hobday (SH) – Sydney Ports Corporation  
 Sandra Spate (SS) – Minutetaker

**Apologies:** Bronwyn Englaro – Randwick City Council; Michael Kavanagh – Business Representative

**Not present:**

Item	Issue	Action	By whom	When
1	<b>Welcome and apologies</b>			
1.1	Apologies were received from Bronwyn Englaro and Michael Kavanagh.			
2	<b>Update on construction and activities</b>			
2.1	<p><u>Presentation by BJ-JDN (DP)</u>            Major dredging is complete, with two minor areas continuing – the boat ramp this week and the Penrhyn Estuary channel reshaping to encourage sea grass colonisation. For the information of the boating community, there will be night dredging next week at the pontoons.            Energy dissipaters will be installed with permanent barriers later.            The current recreational channel is in its permanent alignment. There are currently floats between marker buoys but these will be removed eventually. NSW Maritime has been approached regarding an increase to the 8 knot speed limit. Baulderstone and</p>			

	<p>SPC have no objections to the speed limit being increased as the bulk of construction works have finished.</p> <p>The large barges that remain on the site are the shear leg barge and the Melbourne and a couple of small barges. The Melbourne leaves this week.</p> <p>Other works being undertaken on the reclamation area include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Asphaltting of the terminal access bridge this weekend which will complete most work on the bridge.</li> <li>- The main earthworks will be completed in March, except for some works at the south west corner. All concrete works, except for the south west corner should be completed in four weeks.</li> <li>- Most heavy equipment should be demobilized by the end of March with practical completion of works around the end of April. The site is being sprayed with a layer of dust suppressant which forms a crust.</li> </ul>			
	Questions and discussion			
2.2	<p>PP asked what the water depth in Penrhyn Estuary would be after dredging.</p> <p>DP advised sea bed is at a RL-2 on the terminal side and RL-1 on the foreshore road side. As such the minimum water depths at low tide will be 2.3m and 1.3m respectively.</p> <p>JB said there is ongoing dialogue with SPC and Maritime regarding the boating channel so that boaters can resume the historic practice of cutting across the shipping area when travelling towards the heads. These discussions are still ongoing and will be revisited after trialing the new and expanded recreation boating channel.</p>			
2.3	<p>PP noted that barges and tugs had been previously anchored in the area between Port and the airport, and asked whether this was related to the airport.</p> <p>SH replied that a tug and barge provider in the port had stored the company's boats there on anchor.</p>			

3	<b>Environmental monitoring monthly reports</b>			
3.1	<p><u>Presentation by BJ-JDN QP</u></p> <p>The last monitoring report distributed was the December 2010 report. Major dredging finished on November 2010, with small scale dredging continuing for the removal of excess sand.</p> <p>After major dredging was completed monitoring showed turbidity levels within the construction area to be similar to that in the rest of the bay and turbidity monitors. Following approval, the turbidity monitors were removed.</p> <p>In December 2010 there was one exceedence at a dust gauge at Penrhyn Estuary. The high result was not consistent with work being done on site and the following month it was low.</p> <p>Monitoring in community areas showed results below limits.</p> <p>There were no issues in January 2011 but some dust complaints in February 2011. Results from dust monitoring didn't indicate exceedences in community areas.</p> <p>The majority of monitoring programs will finish in March but dust, water and noise will continue.</p>			
	Questions and discussion			
3.2	<p>JB reported that on the weekend of 6 February, even if no exceedences were recorded, he couldn't see through the dust. It was a disaster on Foreshore Drive and for residents. The tone of a letter of response was that dust came from somewhere else, but it was from here. There was a potential safety hazard, with wind and hot air, but the response inferred it was not a Port's problem and there were no exceedences.</p> <p>QP replied that limits weren't exceeded in regard to guidelines goals, but these measurements are for the month, and in the case of the HVAS monitor in the golf course</p>			

	<p>the readings are taken once every sixth or seventh day in accordance with EPA guideline standards and may not have picked up a one day event.</p> <p>DP reported that the issues have been taken seriously. Boulderstone has modified what is occurring on site to try and ensure it doesn't happen again. They have re-sequenced works and where possible moved stockpiles from the area of concern. By the end of March the whole site will have been sprayed with dust suppressant. This seems to have been effective in the 50km winds of this afternoon.</p> <p>SH noted that the letter of response was from SPC corporate affairs and was a factual response based on the information at hand at the time, which didn't include results for that day. He acknowledged problems caused for the community and lessons have been learnt. 70% of the site has now been sealed with the dust suppressant.</p> <p>JB suggested that while this may have been a one off event, it was the wrong response for the occasion.</p>			
3.3	<p>PP asked whether water pooling in the wet period posed a risk from mosquito borne diseases. Has there been feedback from Quarantine regarding testing of larvae.</p> <p>QP replied that grading occurs as soon as pooling occurs and there has never been any issues with mosquito larvae or mosquitoes on site.</p> <p>SH noted that Quarantine patrols the port area and gets on to people quickly if they notice water pooling.</p>			
3.4	<p>NH suggested that the bird population may be decreasing. When will work in the estuary be finished?</p> <p>QP replied that bird numbers have remained about the same. Shorebird numbers have remain low. Work is now complete in the estuary and it is hoped there will be a return of shorebirds.</p> <p>NH asked whether the area is open to the public.</p>			

	QP replied this won't happen till April.			
3.5	<p>JB noted that while it is good to see evidence of some success with sea grass, the December report indicated no success with a dive.</p> <p>QP reported there had been one dive last week with another expected this month.</p>			
3.6	<p>JB suggested that a three or four years ago in relation to discharge through Springvale drains, different arresters had been investigated for the area but to date nothing has happened. Problems are being caused with major water flows through the estuary, with the potential also to carry toxic material past the boat ramp and to the beach front. He cited the section on Erosion and Sedimentation in the December report, noting where sand had once formed a soft dune it is now a vertical cliff. If major water flows continue there will be nothing left to wash away. From having seen what has happened over 20 years he can't see it being handled adequately by appropriate agencies but the problem could end up with Ports.</p> <p>MC responded that the proposals were never meant to mitigate the velocity of flows from Springvale but were in regard to storm water quality and a contingency plan should the estuary became full of nutrients. There is no evidence of that at this time. There has been a lot of work done, with the removal of mangrove and weeds and planting of Salt marsh and there will be erosion till a new preferred flow path is established. Some of the bank has been shaved back to prevent collapse. There has to be a balance between going in and interfering by such measures as adding rocks and allowing time for an equilibrium to be established. This will take a number of storm events over time.</p> <p>PP asked whether the same wait and see policy was being adopted regards the beachfront.</p> <p>MC replied that there had been changes to the wave environment and there hasn't yet</p>			

	<p>been a chance for it to stabilize. There is a long term monitoring program of 5 to 7 years out to tender. This would include sediment levels, sea grass and salt marsh.</p> <p>PP asked whether a lot of vegetation could go.</p> <p>MC replied it could but is not expected to.</p> <p>JB mentioned that that perhaps thought should be given to divert the Floodvale and Springvale drains to discharge into the Port itself. It was acknowledged that this concept may be too late now and too costly.</p>			
4	<b>Update on communication activities including complaints</b>			
4.1	<p><u>Presentation by BJ-JDN (VT)</u></p> <p>There have been 13 complaints since November, with 10 in relation to dust and an additional three in relation to property damage. One of these was in relation to damage to tiles from vibration. Vibration monitoring was conducted and results provided to the resident.</p> <p>There was a complaint about the silt curtain coming loose.</p> <p>A complaint was received that dynamic compaction activity had commenced earlier than approved hours of operation. An investigation revealed that a contractor had commenced at 6.20am. A non conformance notice was issued and an apology given to the resident.</p>			
	Questions and Discussion			
4.2	<p>PP asked what the procedure is for cracks in his foundations.</p> <p>VT replied that in line with a response previously given, he would need to submit a claim in writing to the project which is then submitted to the insurance company.</p>			
4.3	<p>JB asked whether the complaint submitted by phone regarding the silt curtain coming away was recorded in the log.</p> <p>VT replied that the complaint came through via email.</p> <p>JB suggested in that case there is a problem with the phone system, as he confirmed the</p>			

	complaint made by phone.			
5	<b>Grade Separation Works update</b>			
5.1	<p><u>Presentation by SPC (FDVB)</u>  Track duplication to Patricks will be completed this week.  The contract for grade separation has been awarded to Boulderstone.  The last six months has involved moving in-ground services and connecting Patrick to the substation.  Design wise there has been 1 major change since the previous report in relation to the Caltex entrance. There will still be three reinforced earth ramps.  Enabling works have included a temporary access road to Patricks which is working well.  Upcoming works include construction of footings to ramps B and C.  A traffic switch on February 16 facilitated truck movements to Patricks to allow the widening of Penrhyn Rd. The next traffic switch will be on the Penrhyn Road east side. There have been some traffic management issues.  Pre cast beams and an in-situ deck will be used during construction.  Piling is expected to commence this Saturday or Monday. Piles will be bored not driven, so less impacts are expected. There will be 73 piles, with two rigs on site.  One of biggest changes from the original proposal is in regards to the Caltex exit. This is in order to leave traffic phasing at the lights unchanged.  The new truck entry point to Patricks will be permanent with a 300m run on to assist with queuing.  The T3 rail corridor will be used for trucks to enter the site via Foreshore Drive during the construction.  The grade separation will be 7m high, and 5.2 m at the lowest point.</p>			

<b>6</b>	<b>Minutes</b>			
	<p>SH reported that in relation to Item 5.6, the film of the project construction is being finalized. As part of the video, JB and NM were interviewed.</p> <p>Regarding item 5.7 on a regional approach to weed control, MC has discussed this with SP. The item remains open for a formal response from Council.</p> <p>Regarding item 7.4. for the referral of the water quality discussion to the NLG, KL reported that a presentation by the Catchment Management Authority was presented to the NLG. A special meeting with DECCW and Sydney Water is being organized.</p>			
<b>7</b>	<b>Completion of D&amp;C works and commencement of Hutchison construction works</b>			
7.1	<p><u>Presentation by SPC</u></p> <p>SH reported that Boulderstone would complete expansion work by late April. There would be a period between then and 1 July when SPC would control the site. It would then go to Hutchison who intend to start work from that date. There is an expectation that they will use this committee as part of the community consultation while they undertake their works. They will need to circulate their construction environmental management plans to the CCC. They would be attending committee meetings after July at the latest, as will Boulderstone as part of the grade separation works. The CCC will continue till the end of 2012 when Hutchison is operational and matters will be referred to the NLG.</p> <p>MC noted that Hutchison will need to consult with the committee once they have completed their management plants, or if there are any modifications to the current planning approvals..</p>			

7.2	<p>PP asked who would be using at the new tug berths at the entrance to the Penrhyn Estuary.</p> <p>SH replied that there are currently two tug companies and it will up to them whether they move there. The area near the entrance to the Penrhyn Estuary may not be used immediately.</p>			
7.3	<p>NH suggested that there hasn't been a lot of reporting to the community of the workings of the CCC. She thinks the community should be informed about the drawing to a conclusion of the reclamation works but the committee will continue up to the completion of all construction works and updated regarding the successes and shortcomings of the group. She is concerned that the community needs to know that there will continue to be somewhere to take their concerns to. She also thanked SPC and Boulderstone for their work in providing the amount and quality of information to the committee.</p> <p>The CCC endorsed the appreciation of SPC and Boulderstone for their work with the community. NM reported he had also done this in his interview.</p> <p>JB suggested the local media could also be used for publicity about the CCC.</p>	SH to provide a draft to the CCC along the lines of a newsletter or media release to the local media advising of the stage of works, the commencement by Hutchison and the future role of the CCC.	SPC	
	<p>JB noted that it has been emphasised that people wanting to make enquiries about the Port go to the website or hotline, but he thought that it is not mentioned that complaints can be made via this avenue. He suggested more specific information be included about procedures for making complaints.</p>	KL to check the details of the website and hotline information to ensure it includes avenues for complaints.	SPC	
7.4	<p>NH asked whether the new bridge would be for Hutchison to use during construction or would all construction traffic need to come through Penrhyn Rd?</p> <p>MC replied that they would not be precluded from using the bridge, but this hasn't yet been decided.</p> <p>JB suggested that most heavy equipment</p>			

	would be brought in by sea.			
7.5	SH reported that the Penrhyn Estuary lookout and the southern end of the shared path will be open to the public in April.			
<b>8</b>	<b>Other Matters/next meeting</b>			
8.1	JB noted the minutes from the recent NLG meeting reported the Banksia St level crossing is to go, but that the other crossing near the airport also needs to be addressed. KL reported that Railcorp is currently investigating the matter. MC reported that state government agencies were investigating what is required to close the crossing. It may involve exploring expansion of capacity at the Botany Rd and General Holmes Drive intersection. NH suggested to would be good if the community had that information.			
8.2	Next meeting is Tuesday 24 May, 2011 PP offered his apology for this meeting.			

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

