

Meeting minutes

Port Botany Neighbourhood Liaison Group

Date: Tuesday 15 November 2011 Time: 5.30-7.00pm Meeting No. 15

Location: Sydney Ports Operations Centre – Dampier Room

Attendees

Charles Abela – Community Representative Danny Bannatyne – DP World Stevedores

Nancy Hillier – Community Representative Aldo Costabile – Elgas Limited

Thomas Nolan – Community Representative Pamela Meers – Caltex

Kellie Parkin – Community Representative Cliff Bell – Caltex

John Burgess – Community Representative Joanna Fielding – Workcover

Karen Armstrong – Randwick City Council Christa Sams – Sydney Ports Corporation

David Dekel – Rockdale City Council Shane Hobday – Sydney Ports Corporation

Steven Poulton – City of Botany Bay Council

Karen Browne – Electorate Offices for
Member for Maroubra

Meeting minute taker: Sandra Spate Meeting Chair: Shane Hobday

Apologies: Tony Steiner – Community Representative; Lynda Newnam – Community Representative; Paul Pickering – Community Representative; Greg Olsen – Alternate Community Member; Mark Bellears – DP World Stevedores; Neil Truskett – Patrick Stevedores; Saskia Starr – Sydney Ports Corporation

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Agenda Items

1. Apologies and introductions

SH welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were received.

2. Accept minutes of last meeting

Amendments were put forward by a number of members via email. Amended minutes were accepted by the NLG. These will be placed on the SPC website.

3. Actions arising from previous minutes

Regarding the swimming advice on signage at Foreshore Beach, SPC has reviewed the wording, but as it is considered appropriate advice there has been no change to existing signage.

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Copies of the 1996 Port Botany Landuse Safety Study were emailed to NLG members on 22 August.

Regarding the invitation to the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) to attend an NLG meeting to discuss noise issues, CS reported that they had been contacted as recently as today, and indicated willingness to attend, but were unable to send a representative to tonight's meeting. OEH will be invited to the February 2012 meeting.

The Randwick City Council Mayoral Minute on noise was circulated to NLG members on 22 August.

Regarding the action to provide LN with figures for additional expected truck movements from the proposed Truck Marshalling Area at Bumborah Pt Road, CS reported that there aren't expected to be changes to existing traffic volumes. This is because the area does not generate any new or extra trucks. There will be an increase in traffic turning left from the site but no additional traffic conflicts. Trucks currently queue in Simblist and Friendship Roads and these will now be able to wait in the marshalling area. The length of stay will be one hour only and there will be gated access and message boards to indicate to trucks when their slot at the terminal is open. The yard will hold about 50 trucks. It will go out to tender shortly, and is hoped to be operational in the latter part of next year.

AC asked whether it is intended for container vehicles only, as there are occasionally parking issues with roadtankers.

SH replied that the intended purpose is for container trucks which come earlier than their booked slot to avoid being late and incurring a penalty. SPC would prefer they didn't queue on the road.

DB reported a noticeable trend for trucks to arrive earlier and earlier.

JB asked if the vehicle space will be for 50 B-doubles.

SH reported that once the development was complete there would be space for up to 50 B-doubles.

There was an action for SPC provide information about the level of liaison with Sydney Buses, particularly in relation to the Truck Marshalling Area.

CS reported that there has been liaison with the bus depot, and there will be additional consultation after the tender is awarded, prior to construction of the facility.

Regarding the action for SPC to advise the NLG of the date of the next emergency exercise, SH reported that the exercise has been deferred to early 2012 due to a number of incidents in October and September which allowed the port test arrangements.

4. NSW Government announcement to lease Port Botany

SH reported that as part of the recent State Government budget, the Government announced it will refinance Port Botany under a 99 year lease agreement. The landlord would become a private organisation instead of SPC. The Government has called for expressions of interest to scope the proposal. It will then go to the market. The process is being undertaken by NSW Treasury and is expected to take about 18 months. It is expected that SPC will continue to carry out port safety functions, but the landlord of tenants will change.

KP sought to clarify that at this stage the expressions of interest are just for scoping the

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proposal. SH confirmed this is the case.

NH asked whether the new landlord would liaise with committees such as this. She noted that the community needs to be taken care of. She also asked whether the new landlord would have to adhere to Department of Planning rules.

KP asked whether SPC would retain the planning approval role and the community consultation role.

SH replied that all these aspects will have to be determined including control of the public facilities such as the boat ramp. At this stage only Port Botany is in the proposal, not Sydney Harbour.

AC asked whether SPC would remain the operator of the bulk liquids berth.

SH responded it is yet to be decided.

PM asked whether there would be changes to tenants' leases.

SH replied that leases are legal agreements that would have to be honoured. These may change when the leases are renegotiated or renewed. These issues are part of the scoping document to be prepared, which will set guidelines.

NH wishes to make the Government aware that the community is very interested in proceedings.

5. Development Activities in the Port

Port Botany Expansion - SH reported that in the Port Botany Expansion project area, Sydney International Container Terminals (Hutchison Port Holdings) will commence construction of their terminal on two thirds of the site early next year. Negotiations are taking place with Patrick to take the other third, about 18 hectares.

The grade separation works on Penrhyn Road are progressing well, with the ramps being constructed. Completion is expected around mid 2012.

Other works include construction of the Banksia Street pedestrian overpass. Foundation works are underway. The target is to finish it by early 2012.

Bulk Liquids Berth 2 - pile driving for the new berth is anticipated to start on 21 November. Thirty five (35) metre long piles are being shipped from Korea to Port Kembla and then delivered one per truck to Port Botany. The berth is expected to be operational around the middle of 2013.

KP asked why they are not shipped straight to Port Botany.

DB replied that the terminals at Port Botany don't have the ability to unload non containerised cargo.

For the information of the NLG, SH reported on developments in Sydney Harbour. A contract has been awarded to AW Edwards for construction of a passenger cruise ship terminal at White Bay. SPC has been engaged in public meetings and consultations with Leichhardt Council and demolition works started today. Cruise ship operations at Barangaroo 5 will cease in early 2013.

KA asked about the future of the former car storage area at Glebe Island.

SH responded that its use is up for consideration, by a group to be convened by the NSW Government called the Bays Precinct Taskforce. SPC would like to see it used for dry bulk cargoes; including relocation of activities of Hansen's batching plant and Hymix cement from Blackwattle Bay.

KA asked whether this area is part of the 99 year lease proposal.

SH replied it wasn't. Unlike Sydney Harbour, where SPC has parcels of land scattered throughout, Port Botany is a discrete area which can be easily defined.

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CB asked whether Bailey's was operating a marina at White Bay.

SH replied they are operating a refuelling facility and ship lift for boats at the eastern end of White Bay. They have a proposal for stacked dry boat storage.

Tenant developments

CS reported that development proposals approved by SPC since the last meeting include the weighbridges for Patricks and DP World, a gas cylinder storage facility for Elgas, and facility layout and modifications for the POTA container storage operation on Bumborah Point Road. Planning Application Meetings have been held for Vopak's Bitumen Facility at 49 Friendship Road and for Terminals' Weighbridge Relocation at 45 Friendship Road however applications have not yet been received. Information on all these development proposals is on the SPC website.

KP asked for clarification as to why the weighbridges are needed.

SH and DB replied that the "weigh-in motion bridges" will be located at each container terminal in order to manage axle weights. Distribution of weight across the vehicle is a safety issue. The truck driver only has information about the weight of a container, not distribution.

KP asked whether trucks have internal mechanisms for determining this.

DB replied that there is a mechanism for trucks to enable this, but most trucks don't have it installed.

AC reported that the storage facility at Elgas is a small facility for Stargas cylinders.

DB had no further developments to report from DP World.

CA reported hearing discussion of shipping of bulk sand. He asked whether there is potential for export of sand from Port Botany.

SH said there isn't. Port Botany is a bulk liquids and container port. Bulk sand wouldn't be handled here. There is a potential to import sand for Sydney, as sources at Kurnell and Penrith are almost exhausted, but this would be directed to the port area at Glebe Island, if it were to commence.

JB reported an ongoing development application proposal for sand mining is being examined for ocean floor south of Botany Bay. There is also potential for sand mining in Port Stephens/Stockton but there is community opposition. The other option could be consideration of dredging down the coast with sand also used to stabilise beaches.

CB reported that Caltex is evaluating a proposal for a truck stop refuelling site at the company's Banksmeadow terminal. It is a concept only at this stage as a commercial evaluation needs to take place. PM noted it would only supply diesel fuel for trucks. SH suggested there would probably be support from Council for this as it would take trucks currently using the BP station on Botany Road off local streets.

6. Randwick Council Mayoral Minute on Noise

CS reported that KP has passed on some discussion of noise issues from community websites, and an OEH study on different reversing alarms, which may be of assistance to Port operators. The reversing alarm study and the Mayoral Minute have been forwarded to NLG members. SPC advised that it has been liaising with tenants recently about options for reducing noise from forklift reversing alarms, and asking them to consider what alternate type would suit them, whilst still meeting OH&S requirements, and

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whether they would trial something different. Responses to date indicate a willingness to look at what alarms may be suitable, such as when leases for the equipment are renewed. The attention around the issue has been timely and has helped. CS will provide an update at the next meeting.

JB noted that the high number of complaints about noise on blog sites reinforced the view that only a small proportion of complaints are officially lodged via the SPC phone line. He asked whether these had been registered as complaints.

CS replied they were not registered as official complaints, but have been acknowledged by SPC. It has made SPC aware of the fact that there are people with complaints who don't know about ringing the hotline, or choose not to.

KP indicated these online complaints show a high level of concern in the community.

AC reported that Elgas has only one small forklift without a beeper.

CA asked whether forklifts use beepers only for reversing, or going forwards as well?

DB replied they are only for reversing.

SH indicated interest in the issue at the Ministerial level as well as by the Members for Maroubra and Coogee.

7. Safety and Environmental Incidents and Emergency Exercises

SH reported a number of safety and environmental incidents have occurred since the last meeting. In September there was a leaking container containing 30 litre drums of nitric acid. The fire brigade hazardous materials response group was called in to provide assistance.

CS reported there had been a total of 5 leaking containers since the last meeting.

SH noted some of these were the lowest level, a class 9 dangerous good.

DB reported the low level ones were actually perfume.

NH raised concern about safety management after an incident at a chemical company in Botany which involved evacuation of residents, but Council was not informed. People were left in the street on a cold night with some congregating in the airport hotel. Residents have to be included in emergency response. Industry should alert Council to notify community. It is Council's job to look after the community. It is not enough to just inform the police and fire brigade.

SP reported the incident NH referred to occurred on 23 September at the back of Botany and involved a chemical that reacts with water to form chlorine gas. It was a drizzly, rainy night and 100 houses were evacuated. Many people went to relatives and friends but about 40 people congregated on the IGA car park on an 8 degree night.

JB reported that the trucking company had said they had no idea what was in the container.

SH noted that SPC are required to be provided with information on what is in every container.

JF confirmed that the legislation relating to the transport of dangerous goods is co-administered by WorkCover and OEHL. In general, WorkCover regulates the on-site aspects such as loading and unloading and OEHL the on-road matters.

SH reported the emergency procedure for SPC is that they advise emergency services and police take charge of the evacuation area. He would expect police to notify the relevant agencies. They would get representatives from supporting agencies to work with police in regard determining the assembly area.

SP reported that Council has plans in place for the community, and have evacuation centres. These plans are currently under review, but there was an issue with delay in

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emergency services' notification of Council. The call from the State emergency management came late to council. He hopes new processes will address this.

CB suggests the Local Emergency Management Committee should have come into play but didn't.

SH indicated SPC are happy to assist in the process.

NH noted no one from SPC has attended the previous two LEMC meetings, and there is no community representative from Randwick.

Action: SH to ensure attendance from an SPC representative at future LEMC meetings.

AC reported that on September 14 at Elgas, during the process of unloading a large ship one pressure relief valve failed resulting in the release of LPG. The gas detector picked this up immediately and shut down operations. Various isolations on the line were activated. Emergency services and SPC were notified immediately and the emergency plan activated. He believes the process worked well and confirmed the effectiveness of the Port Botany emergency management committee plan. Operations were shut down for 4½ hours and emergency services closed the Port and the incident was contained within the Elgas perimeter.

CA asked how much LPG was released.

AC estimates the upper limit was around 600kg, although it is not possible to accurately define. The deluge system kicked in immediately.

SH reported there was no LPG detected off site.

CA asked about the proximity of the ship, and dangers posed by this.

AC replied the ship was approximately half a kilometre away and the LPG was contained within the site boundary. Systems worked properly and Workcover and the EPA were notified on the night. The pressure relief valve had been well serviced, but the incident is being reviewed.

CA asked how far from the boundary was the ship and who is responsible for that land, and for maintenance of the pipelines on that land?

AC noted it was several hundred metres. Ports are responsible for the land in between. Vopak and Elgas maintain the pipelines.

CS provided a summary of all incidents and complaints which came through SPC Harbour Control since the August NLG meeting, noting this does not include internal incidents and complaints made to tenants. There were 3 noise complaints (2 about beeping and 1 about ship noise); 7 air quality incidents (2 regarding gas, including the Elgas incident above, 3 about dust from the Port Botany Expansion, and 2 about vessel smoke); 5 reports of leaking containers; and 12 reports of potential or actual water pollution. This was a total of 27 incidents/complaints for the 3 month period.

KP noted with regard the number of noise complaints, that people can't be on the phone 24 hours a day complaining about beepers.

8. Other Matters/next meeting

JF reinforced the need to report incidents at work places to WorkCover. She explained the reporting requirements for chemical incidents and distributed relevant parts of the occupational health and safety legislation. The legislation is available at www.legislation.nsw.gov.au. Information about reporting incidents is on the WorkCover web site www.workcover.nsw.gov.au. Information can be also obtained by calling 13 10 50. Certain incidents are defined as 'serious incidents' and must be reported

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immediately. Those that pose a risk to health and safety require reporting as soon as practicable within 7 days. There is no minimum limit for the release of dangerous goods or the risk of release of these. The Workcover website gives advice on how to report incidents. There is a current review of systems for reporting incidents.

KA reported that Randwick Council currently has on display Council discussion papers towards a review of the Local Environment Plan. It is mainly around standardisation of controls. It is not directly relevant to Port Botany but there is an industrial paper regarding the light industrial area. The next stage will be a draft LEP which goes back to Council and is then put on formal exhibition. Council reports, reviews submissions and suggests changes to the LEP.

SH asked when the new LEP is likely to take effect.

KA replied the intention is to exhibit it early next year.

DD noted Rockdale Council has gone through a similar process and adopted a new LEP. It was mainly about standardisation. This was submitted to DoP for approval over 6 months ago. There is currently a bottleneck in the system.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting is proposed for **Tuesday 21 February, 2011.**

These minutes have been endorsed by the meeting Chair

Signed

Date
