

Minutes
MEETING # 5
Port Botany Neighbourhood Liaison Group

Location: Patrick Container Terminal, Gate B105a, Interterminal Access Rd
 Date: Tuesday 18 August 2009
 Time: 5.30pm to 7.00pm

Attendees	
<p>Community Members: John Burgess (JB) – Community representative Nancy Hillier (NH) – Community representative Lynda Newnam (LN) – Community representative Tony Steiner (TS) – Community representative</p> <p>Council Representatives: Karen Armstrong (KA) – Randwick City Council Paul Shepherd (PS) – City of Botany Bay Council Erika Roka (ER) – Rockdale City Council</p> <p>Karen Browne (KB) – Electorate Offices for Member for Maroubra</p>	<p>Business Representatives: Mick Egan (ME) – Patrick Stevedores Paul Burtenshaw (PB) – DP World Stevedores Jenny Branighan (JB) – Origin Energy Glen Davenport (GD) – Vopak</p> <p>Sydney Ports Corporation: Shane Hobday (SH) Kathy Lloyd (KL) Mark Deacon (MD)</p> <p>Adam Bioletti (AB) – Wilkinson Murray</p> <p>Minutetaker Sandra Spate</p>
<p>Apologies: Fay Steward – Rockdale City Council, Brad Crockett – Terminals Pty Ltd, Aldo Costabile – Elgas Limited</p>	

Agenda Items:
<p>1. Welcome and apologies</p> <p>SH introduced Mark Deacon from SPC to the meeting. Mark, who works in the Logistics and Trade section of Sydney Ports will be attending future meetings. Karen Browne was welcomed to the meeting as a representative of the Electorate Offices for the Member for Maroubra.</p>
<p>2. Noise assessment presentation – Adam Bioletti – Wilkinson Murray</p> <p><i>Presentation by Adam Bioletti</i></p> <p>A draft report from Wilkinson Murray regarding Port Botany Noise Monitoring was distributed to the meeting. Wilkinson Murray has been engaged by SPC to conduct noise monitoring at residences surrounding Port Botany. Two locations chosen for monitoring were Harold St (the location of a recent noise complaint) and Moorina Ave, Matraville. Monitoring was conducted over several evenings to capture a variety of wind conditions at varying times. Three of the four monitoring activities have been completed to date. Another in southerly winds is yet to be completed.</p> <p>Noise criteria were outlined. There are no overall noise criteria for the area. The most relevant reference document is the Industrial Noise Policy, which is cumulative and intended to protect long term amenity.</p> <p>Matraville is considered an urban area for the purpose of noise monitoring, for which the recommended allowable noise level during the evening hours is 45dBA. LAeq (average levels) for Harold St was between 48 and 55 and Moorina Ave between 46 and 52. Noise at any particular location is likely to have many sources.</p>

Questions and discussion

LN asked whether monitoring had taken place at between 2 and 3 am, as this was likely to be the critical period in breaking sleep cycles.

AB replied that in terms of measuring at 2am, the background noise will have decreased, but individual noise sources such as beepers were unlikely to change. He recognised there was merit in undertaking monitoring then, and will try to with the last measuring.

JB asked that if in breach of the 45dBA, whether this was allowable.

SH replied that for existing facilities (operating prior to current guidelines) a goal would be to achieve 45dBA. This goal would be in a number of licences.

AB noted there was intent to decrease noise levels progressively.

JB suggested that the consistent background noise was likely to be less of a problem than the peaks which would be disruptive to sleep e.g. containers dropped off.

NH thought this monitoring was of a very limited nature. It didn't take into account the hundreds who haven't complained. There have previously been noise problems at Tupia St. SH replied this monitoring was undertaken voluntarily to try and understand the size of the problem.

LN asked whether the person (from Harold St) who had made the complaint has been contacted recently. LN has been in contact by email, and she was asked why the reversing beepers could not be turned down. LN reported that she could hear the beepers in La Perouse.

KL responded that once fitted beepers are not allowed to be modified, for safety reasons.

JB suggested there is an issue for Botany Council here, with a real problem concerning the quality of life due to all the infrastructure, not just Ports. Some affected areas are in Randwick Council area, but most residential affected is possibly on the Botany side. The Port is a major hub of industrial activity which will intensify over time and the area around Hale St will become more affected. He recognises it is a challenge, but someone must have a responsibility towards tackling the issue.

PS reported that Council does a lot of testing in the area at different locations. He would like to see a consolidated report including the Banksmeadow and Matraville areas, to be able to compare this monitoring to recent council testing. He indicated Botany Council doesn't get many port related complaints. They are more industrial. Council does put noise conditions on development approvals e.g. controls regarding the running of coolers, the location of refrigeration units. There are individual limits for factories. Council doesn't get many general complaints.

LN indicated that feedback from the La Perouse Precinct Committee meeting indicated these areas were also affected.

Action: SPC to combine noise monitoring results from the different areas once the current monitoring is complete (KL).

AB noted that in terms of selection of areas for monitoring, those chosen would be typical of worst case. In terms of 45dBA in high traffic areas the allowable levels increase. There is a sliding scale referencing existing industrial noise. He drew attention to the comment section of the results table. The overall number doesn't reflect sound coming from any particular source. The 55dBA in the morning could mainly be attributed to traffic.

SH noted noise attenuation associated with the Port expansion including noise walls built close to the Port area.

3. Accept minutes of last meeting as correct

Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.

4. Actions arising from previous minutes

Regarding the action for provision of information about the timeframe associated with the Hale St development, SH reported that the planning for the connection to Foreshore Rd was progressing

MD reported that there was a restriction on 24 hour access for vehicles. No 1 Hale St doesn't have authority to work 24/7. Currently there is no information on the timing for the Hale St connection. The existing noise wall would be extended. SPC and RTA would be contributing financially.

JB thought most people seemed supportive of the proposal.

SH noted the benefits expected on Botany Rd.

PS reported that a traffic control device will be installed at Hale St to prevent heavy traffic.

The action regarding a request from the group to the Local Member regarding the provision of noise attenuation and fire safety measures at the rail and level crossing remains open.

Action: Local Member to be approached regarding the provision of noise attenuation and fire safety measures on the Botany freight rail line.

The action regarding a summary of Industrial Noise Policy was addressed in the presentation to this meeting.

A copy of the Randwick Council's bike plan was circulated to the group via email.

Regarding the issue of the promotion of the Port's industrial area via Randwick Council's Business Awards, KA noted that the awards have finished. She suggested that as they are two yearly, consideration should be given to the next round.

5. Development activities in the port

SH reported that the Port expansion works are continuing and are on schedule for completion in March 2011. Approximately 30 counterfort units have been assembled and are currently located on the load out wharf. There is no dredging currently, as works are awaiting the arrival of the new dredge Marco Polo for operation in September. De Bougainville has departed and the dredging outside the silt curtain is now complete. Desal dredging is almost complete. Energy Australia dredging is just beginning. The nominated depth of the trench allows for any future deepening or widening of the channel without having to move the cable. The new Port Operations Centre at the inner end of Brotherson Dock is almost complete.

LN noted that they had originally been told there would be no dredging for the Energy Australia cables.

KA asked what the expected staff increase was in relation to the new Operations Centre. SH replied there would be five on a 24/7 basis plus another 25-30 day workers relocating from CBD offices. There would be parking opposite the building and a compound for additional parking. The Port Expansion will create additional jobs rather than the opening of the Operations Centre. There would be an announcement on the successful stevedore tenderer in coming weeks.

NH asked whether staff at the new Operations Centre would be overseeing Sydney Harbour or Port Botany.

SH replied it would be both.

JB suggested that he thought bold statements that had been made regarding extra movements through the port were likely overoptimistic in light of the recent downturn. SH replied that the result for the 2008/09 was 0.3% increase in containers (TEUs) handled on the previous year. This comes after a number of years of record growth. Over the last 6 months imports have been down but exports are up on previous years. Volumes over the last month are trending back up.

ME reported that they had experienced an increase in exports in the last four weeks.

JB suggested that staff, management and union at Patrick's were to be congratulated for the fact that job losses had been avoided.

SH reported that the detailed design for the second bulk liquids berth was well underway with tenders expected to be called for construction by end 2009 and awarded early next year.

Lessees activities

DP World has signed a new 15-year performance based lease.

Vopak – new tanks, B3B, were expected to be finished approximately December 09.

JB asked whether when the expansion was complete, whether Patrick's would have a split operation or will they be merged. He reported that was a perception amongst people that it would be split.

ME replied that the new area for Patrick would adjoin the current area.

SH reported that it is understood that Patrick's will get an additional 18 hectares and the third terminal will be 42 hectares.

LN noted the current Port design will squash the tern roosting area which wasn't originally intended.

SH reported that the Major Project SEPP, which had been raised at previous meetings, has been assented to, based on the same boundaries as advised at the last meeting, with SPC have planning approval powers for developments up to \$30m.

6. Patrick presentation

A photo montage presentation of Port Botany operations put together by Keith Loutit was shown to the meeting.

LN asked why Patrick's outsourced maintenance, whereas as DP World undertake maintenance in house.

PB replied that DP World outsource some, but due to the range and complexity of some machinery, they have specialists to maintain some.

ME replied the decision regarding Patrick's maintenance was financially based, but as they have fairly standard machinery, the level of experience needed was not as high.

LN suggested that outsourcing led to a different employment profile for the area. The Port was presented as a benefit for the community. Ports should be obliged to honour what was said in the EIS. SH added that employment projections were for the broader area.

JB noted the Minister's report suggesting 2,000 jobs was inaccurate.

KA asked whether SPC had apprenticeship schemes.

SH replied they did. Four apprentices have been recruited in the last 12 months in the Marine Operations Department of Sydney Ports.

LN noted that she thought Randwick Council had a policy regarding the employment catchment area, "living locally".

KA noted that council encouraged people to shop locally, but this was not extended to employment. It is good to have job opportunities locally, so people can avoid travelling long distances. Council encourage local opportunities.

7. Other Matters

MD reported that the Freight and Logistics Council NSW had held workshops around NSW which have been attended by 30-50 people representing different community and business groups. Price Waterhouse Coopers is putting a document together regarding freight strategy for NSW, with the objective of improving the efficiency of freight flow. The floor is open for any issue about moving product and people. Sydney is recognised as a bottleneck. Sydney currently has 4.6 million people and is predicted to have 6 million by 2031.

LN reported that their workshop looked at challenges for Sydney. She noted that a national freight strategy was also discussed. It is time to start streamlining in NSW – there is still competition between Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong. The Ports Strategy was for the next new container terminal at Newcastle.

SH replied that this was for when Port Botany reached its limit. It is about making land use as efficient as possible.

LN noted there had been some opposition expressed to Sydney Ports' proposed peak period pricing.

PS asked if there was a website link regarding the workshops.

Action: SPC to distribute the website address for the link for the Freight and Logistics Council workshops.

JB asked if there was any further details regarding the proposed weigh station.

SH suggested he thought RTA were possibly now looking at SACL land along side Millstream.

JB said that extra hangar space was being sought and this may have a bearing on the issue.

LN noted truck queuing today. She reported safety issues with trucks around corner of Bunnerong and Botany Rds.

MD suggested that Ports position on speeding trucks and trucks illegally parked is firming up quickly.

8. Next meeting will be on 10 November 2009

SPC will host the next meeting at the Port Botany Expansion Office