

Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Port Botany Community Consultative Committee – Meeting No. 33

Held: Tuesday 16th November 2021, 5.30pm-7pm
Online (via Zoom)

Attendees	
<p>Community members Charles Abela John Burgess Peter Fagan Mal Jagdev-Imrich Paul Pickering Louise Brawn – Bayside Business Enterprise Centre Patrick Medway – Bayside Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Council representatives Bronwyn Englaro – Randwick City Council Clare Harley – Bayside Council</p> <p>Electorate Offices Alexi Cassis – Electorate Offices for Member for Kingsford Smith Leigh Heaney - Electorate Offices for Member for Kingsford Smith Dylan Parker – Electorate Offices for Member for Maroubra</p> <p>Port Authority of NSW Catherine Blaine</p> <p>Guest presenters Adriana Verges, Associate Professor and Project Lead, UNSW Ryan Bennett - Senior Planning and Sustainability Manager Clayton Mead, Research Assistant and Project Manager, UNSW</p> <p>Business representatives Russell Brown – ACFS Lisa Rebeiro – ACFS Jos Kusters – Ampol Gary McKay – Ampol Peter Armenis – DP World CreaghDebrabander– Elgas Limited</p>	<p>DozieEgeonu – Hutchison Karen Jones – Opal Mark Bernhardt – Origin Energy Michael Kinnell – Origin Energy George Tanevski – Origin Energy Gus May – Patrick Terminals Mark Walker – Qenos Steve Barclay/Trent Gearside – Quantem Derrick Quinlivan – SafeWork NSW Michael Martin– Vopak Alan Chambers – Vopak</p> <p>NSW EPA Erin Barker</p> <p>NSW Ports representatives Bryan Beudeker Jonathan Lafforgue Catherine Pemberton Greg Walls</p> <p>Sophie Alais – Minute taker Roberta Ryan – Chairperson</p>
Apologies	
Greg Walls – NSW Ports	

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Item	Description	Action/ Responsibility
1	Welcome, Apologies and Introductions	
1.1	RR welcomes everyone to the meeting.	
2	Minutes of last meeting	
2.1	BB and BE approve last meeting's minutes. LB is the new executive officer for Bayside BEC. AV and CM are guest speakers.	
	Actions arising from previous minutes	
3	Follow up question on the Ausgrid cable connection between La Perouse and Kurnell - GW	
3.1	GW responds to an earlier question from JB. JB previously inquired what had been done to address the problem with the exposed Ausgrid cables between La Perouse and Kurnell. GW followed it up the sandbags were laid before the modification as a temporary measure and then the modification confirmed their placement. This was done outside NSW Port's shipping channel.	
4	Molineux Point signage update - CP	
4.1	CP says the new signage has been designed and paid for so it is ready to go. CP says it will be done by the next time the CCC meets in 2022.	
	Presentations	
5	Port Authority of NSW - Operation Posidonia in Kamay Botany Bay, a partnership between UNSW, Gamay Rangers and Port Authority of NSW	
5.1	RB provides background information on the project. In 2016, the Port Authority constructed three lines along the beach to prevent erosion. To improve the conditions for seagrass, there has been 3 years of seagrass monitoring. The groynes have allowed for ecological recovery. Halophila seagrass doubled in the final year. And most importantly, the path of Zostra has increased 10 fold. So now, the Port Authority has partnered with UNSW and the Gamay Rangers. AV speaks to the group and gives a presentation (see Appendix A). LB asks if there is information that Bayside Council can share on social media so the public can learn more about the project and so that they can collect sea grass. AV says they are not ready for sea grass collection yet. They have just installed the first storage tanks. After this, the project would love help spreading the word. JB says that historically, lots of Posidonia and Zostra was temporarily transplanted from the northern side of the Bay to the Towra / Kurnell wetlands during dredging for the port expansion. Post completion of the port some of the Posidonia was relocated back to Foreshore Beach but it did not survive. DPI / NSW Fisheries has undertaken Posidonia rejuvenation experimentation at Port Stephens with limited success. JB was supportive of the latest proposal to rejuvenate the sea grasses within the bay but had reservations as the project to restore seagrass around swing moorings in Port Stephens was very different from Botany Bay. The problem with the Bay is wave and current energy which continually moves the sand and buries the sea grass and kills it whereas Port Stephens is a much shallower and protected waterway. JB says that the erosion of sand fill over cables and gas/ fuel lines across the bay has been a longstanding problem due mainly to deepwater dredging for the Port.	

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	<p>AV shows photo comparisons from 2015 and 2021 to show that the grass has grown back.</p> <p>JB says the area in the photo which is Watts reef near Kurnell has not been an issue as the cables there were laid into a trench cut into the shallow rock sea bed and backfilled with rock unlike the majority deeper cable burial which were laid into a trench cutting in the sand and backfilled with sand which has since been eroded. JB is working on a project to instal an oyster reef in the Bay and the challenge is to find a location that will not be affected by wave energy and sand movement</p>	
6	Trent Gearside – Quantem – DA modification	
6.1	<p>SB says that Quantem are proposing to install an additional thermal combustor which was discussed in the last CCC. The engineering will be at the highest level of the EPA requirements under the clean air regulations. Quantem is not proposing to change the EPA licence conditions. The project is hoped to be completed in the mid to the end of 2022. Information will go on public exhibition in the DPIE portal. There will also be a targeted additional consultation.</p> <p>TG says they are working with the EPA requirements. It has been resubmitted and will go on exhibition according to EPA 4.55 Section 2. There will be stakeholder engagement and an invitation for comment. Stakeholders will be contacted by DPIE.</p> <p>TG says there is nothing to circulate at this point, but there will be once DPIE adds it to the website.</p> <p>SB says a thermal combustor is essentially a pollution control devise that combusts vapor or liquid that is produced during a process and converts them into materials that are less hazardous and a safer for the environment. Then it is permitted to be discharged through a license.</p> <p>SB says Quantem already has two thermal combustors on site.</p> <p>JB asks if Quantem is the one producing the smoke stack.</p> <p>SB says that the smoke stack is not Quantem. Quenous is producing the flare. And the Origin site next door to Quantem is decommissioning.</p> <p>EB asks if the DA has been lodged yet because she had not seen the proposal.</p> <p>TG says it will be available soon. It was submitted on Friday last week.</p> <p>JB says that there is lots of concern in the community about what Opal is proposing with reconstituting waste for green power energy. There is lots of focus on thermal combustion, it is a very hot topic. EB is well aware. JB says lots of eyes are watching this type of activity at the moment.</p> <p>SB says that he encourages the community to talk to Quantem. This issue was raised at the last CCC as well. SB says they want to talk more so the community is not concerned. It is a technical area. SB says that this thermal combustor will be a higher standard than the previous ones.</p> <p>JB says the community is paranoid about this type of process</p> <p>SB says Quantem does not want the community to be paranoid because Quantem is different from other projects and uses different technology.</p> <p>BE asks if this was a DA mod earlier in the eyar?</p> <p>TG says yes, it was. TG says it is still a DA mod but now it's a 4.55 section 2 rather than</p>	

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	<p>a 1a.</p> <p>BE says the committee will still have an opportunity to comment on the project.</p>	
7	Operations update - JL	
7.1	<p>JL provides the operations update for the CCC.</p> <p>JL says that members may have seen reports in the media that there will be no toys for Christmas due to shipping delays. JL says to put people at ease, Santa is still working and things are getting delivered. JL says that over the last 12 – 18 months global supply chains have been pushed to their limits, due to the demand for goods coming through Northeast Asia and the subcontinent. The delays are not to do with Port Botany so it is not something NSW Ports can fix.</p> <p>JL says there are supply chain issues for the factories that even manufacture these goods. Ports such as Shanghai, Singapore, Rotterdam and Antwerp are experiencing delays. In Los Angeles, container ships are queued up trying to get in. So all this impacts every other port so the ships that coming to Port Botany are delayed. The issues is not getting ships in but getting ships on time.</p> <p>JL says that the weekly schedule, which operates on the 'just in time' philosophy, which meant ships came in weekly, has been shaken up. Now, the vessels are arriving in a convoy rather than weekly. However with Port Botany you will not see ships waiting to come into port, the delays are not in Australia but are global. There has been some industrial issues at the Patrick terminal. The impact of this industrial action are not as severe as last years industrial action.</p> <p>This time last year, the Port was facing significant congestion due to empty containers. Now whilehandingsimilar volumes, these issues have gone away. Shipping lines are now more frequentlyequalising their load to discharge ratios.</p> <p>BE informs the group that under the three port SEPP, the temporary increase in container stacking height will be continued. It is a good outcome because they still need to go through a compliance plan. If they need it, they can do it. BE says since we do not know what is coming next, this amendment gives the ports flexibility.</p> <p>JB say congratulations to JL and says that the turnaround of vessels is unbelievable. JB says that hopefully the issue with Patrick improves.</p>	
8	Corporate Affairs update – CP	
8.1	<p>CP says that the community grants program was launched in September. The grants are worth 150,000 in total, 76,000 which was spent in the Port Botany area. Some of the grants went to Caring for Kids Incorporated; La Perouse Public School for iPads and laptops; the Northcote society for room refurbishment; La Perouse netball club to increase First Nations participation on the team; radio operators for the public boating; Scouts; the community garden; and the Randwick-Petersham cricket club.</p>	
	Committee member updates	
9	Port Authority: Port Botany community assets - CB	
9.1	<p>CB says that they are continuing maintenance at the Foreshore and at Penrhyn Estuary. There have been challengers with contractors and the covid-19 lockdowns but now all contractors are back on. Currently looking at upgrading the lighting at Foreshore Beach park. CB is changing roles to focus more on projects, so the new asset manager will begin attending meetings.</p>	


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	<p>JB asks where the new lighting will go on – on Foreshore Drive?</p> <p>CB says the new lights will be on the walking path not on the road.</p> <p>JB says that on Foreshore Drive there are holes with exposed white plastic cables every 30 metres.</p> <p>JL suggests it could be a new camera network for recognition of trucks to monitor truck movements.</p> <p>RR asks someone to investigate this issue.</p> <p>CB says nothing around Foreshore Beach which is mostly facilities like bathrooms and lightings. The Port Authority own Glebe Island and White Bay, and also look after Newcastle Port and Port Kembla. CB is happy to converse offline.</p> <p>PF asks what is happening with Yarra Bay Cruise terminal.</p> <p>CB says it is still officially paused.</p>	
10	Port Botany Expansion operation update (Patrick/Hutchison) – GM, DE	
10.1	DE says nothing is going on, currently it is the reporting period.	
11	Tenant developments & round table updates – All & NSW Ports	
11.1	<p>KJ (Opal) says that last meeting, discussed the development of an odour strategy. Completed odour sampling at 30 different sites, received the raw results. KJ expects to have the report in the new year.</p> <p>GM has nothing new to report. The change to the Ampol branding is progressing, so there will be changes to the Port Botany sites soon. It will hopefully be done by the end of the year.</p> <p>MW says that there is currently a week of maintenance activity at the Port tank. Other than that, the site will be back to normal operations next week.</p> <p>Abro6 (did not catch this members name) says that the members would be aware from previous meetings that contractors from John Holland have begun work despite lockdown challenges. It is a major set of work that includes the removal of the Qantas pedestrian bridge off Qantas drive. It is a disused bridge that required a 250 ton crane to remove it. There are Geotech bore holes along the rail line with survey work established now for utilities. There is planning for works with a utility crossing. There is site establishment along the Drive and Botany Triangle. Minimising use of Banksia St which is used as a small storage facility.</p> <p>MM says there are two updates. Vopak's Botany Port tankage, the three diesel tanks entered service on 1st November. The second thing, announced by a press release on November 3rd, is that Vopak is investigating its strategic operations for terminals in Australia. There may be divestment, but it will be unknown for some time. Any changes will be announced via press releases.</p> <p>JS says there are not updates form Hutchison.</p> <p>DE has no updates from Patrick.</p>	
12	EPA update - EB	
12.1	<p>EB provides an update from the EPA.</p> <p>EB says that the EPA, as an independent agency, will assess the incoming Quantem proposal like any other DA. The DA will be subject to public consultation and will be out</p>	

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	<p>in the public forum.</p> <p>EB says a major thing to report is that since the last meeting there has been a new energy to waste policy. EB understands that the new policy will add significant restrictions on where energy to waste can be used. In terms of the community's worries, the company has to demonstrate that the fuel source is a cleaner source than the current fuel. EB says there is nothing before the EPA right now to assess. The NSW government released this policy. EB knows that this issue is of high interest to the community.</p> <p>EB says that the EPA continues to work with Port Botany regarding noise which BB will comment on. EPA is doing specific work with Opal to identify low frequency noise sources. Opal and the EPA are working hard and collaborating. EB says BB is best to speak on these issues.</p> <p>JB says that consultant for gas at a meeting informed him that Opal had a new contract with a Japanese consortium. JB says it is interesting because why would Opal go for a new contract for gas to run the mill even though there is the cogeneration project.</p> <p>EB suggests that JB asks KJ.</p> <p>KJ is not sure about the issue that JB is speaking about. Opal is owned by a a company called Nippon Paper. KJ says that this sounds like a Head Office issue. KJ says contracts go for 3-5 years, so KJ will hear more if it is happening. KJ says Opal gets gas from the normal supply that supplies all of Sydney, just like it gets electricity and water.</p> <p>JB says the company is called Sanex.</p>	
13	Summary of complaints/incidents – BB	
13.1	BB says there has been no major incidents since the last meeting. There have been the ongoing Covid-19 vaccination programs, and now they are looking at a booster program.	
14	Port Botany Expansion Rail Noise (as per CoA 2.28) - BB	
14.1	<p>BB says that since last meeting, there have been 53 noise complaints: 44 were related to low frequency noise; 7 were container related; 2 were rail but were just observations from a gentleman in Botany – this gentleman also observed that the train had a flat wheel.</p> <p>BB says it is early days, but NSW Ports are engaged in positive dialogue with the shipping companies. The companies were not aware that there was a noise program. BB is getting collations of information on the ships that are coming into the Port, like an acoustic register. It is a work-in-progress. But summer is a quieter month so hopefully there will be less issues.</p> <p>BB has recently given a presentation on noise to the Matraville Resident Precinct Committee BB says that residents said they did not want to be viewed at complainers but he suggested that they see themselves as observers. NSW Ports encourages residents to make contact with them/BB if they hear noise from the Port.</p> <p>BB says that NSW Ports has been waiting four months for license from the Department of Education to enter La Perouse Public School to set up a noise monitor.</p>	
15	Biosecurity – BB	
15.1	BB says there was a mosquito issue – an exotic mosquito was discovered in the traps a few months ago. NSW Ports was asked to spray and check the sites. BB says that Department of Agriculture Water & Environment (DAWE) followed up with all the traps in NSW Ports and luckily no mosquitos were found in the trap.	
16	Other business: John Burgess – beach damage	
16.1	JB says there is a problem at La Perouse through to French Beach and Yarra Bay. JB	

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	<p>says there was a bad depression about 3 months ago with bad wave action. JB has never seen so much sand ripped out of that area. Concrete poles were ripped out – council has reinstalled some, and replaced others with about 26 wooden poles. In the bush regeneration areas, Banksia trees were undermined and the roots were pulled out of the ground. If there is more bad weather, then the bush regeneration area will collapsed.</p> <p>JB says that now at every high tide underneath the boat shed restaurant, the water is slapping against the sea wall. Even an old boat ramp and a boat wreckage that was lost 20 years ago has been washed up.</p> <p>JB has spoken to council to fix it but council says it is not their problem. JB says that wave energy is a huge problem that is causing major damage on the wetlands in Kurnell. JB says he rang the outgoing mayor who called JB back during this meeting. JB says there is precedence that the Port Authority and NSW Ports will fix it as they have in the past. JB says it would be a good-will gesture.</p> <p>BE says the council has been collaborating with other sea side councils to do wave assessments of sea level, storm surges and high tide to map it out until 2120. Also looked at what assets would be affected. BE says the first internal workshop on the issue will be held on Monday. This will be taken into consideration with maintenance. Also picked up on sites affected by the 1974 storm.</p> <p>JB is aware of this project and says it is interesting. JB says he has never seen so much sea life – like cockle shells, sea oysters, Posidonia sea grass etc – washed up on the beach, alive and dying. JB says it is very unusual, never seen it before.</p> <p>BE says that the project is looking at sea level rises and what sites will be affected.</p> <p>JB ask if BE's people have looked at the site.</p> <p>BE says she has seen photos but still needs to walk around and see the site herself.</p> <p>JB says that 20 years ago at the cost of million dollars, artificial reef balls were put into Yarra Bay. JB says a recently commissioned study had shown that 60 percent are buried or destroyed. JB says this means the million dollars was squandered.</p> <p>BE says council asked where the reef balls were but the reef balls did not turn up on mapping. NSW fisheries could not advise.</p> <p>JB says the majority of the reef balls are gone.</p> <p>JB asks NSW Ports and the Port Authority to investigate and for this issue to be on the agenda.</p>	<p>NSW Ports and the Port Authority to investigate the beach damage.</p>
17	<p>Next meeting</p>	
	<p>The next meeting is set for February 22nd 2022 at 5.30pm. Location to be confirmed.</p> <p>RR wishes everyone the best for the summer break.</p>	
	<p>These minutes have been endorsed by the meeting Chair</p> <p>Signed: </p> <p>Date: 28th November 2021</p>	