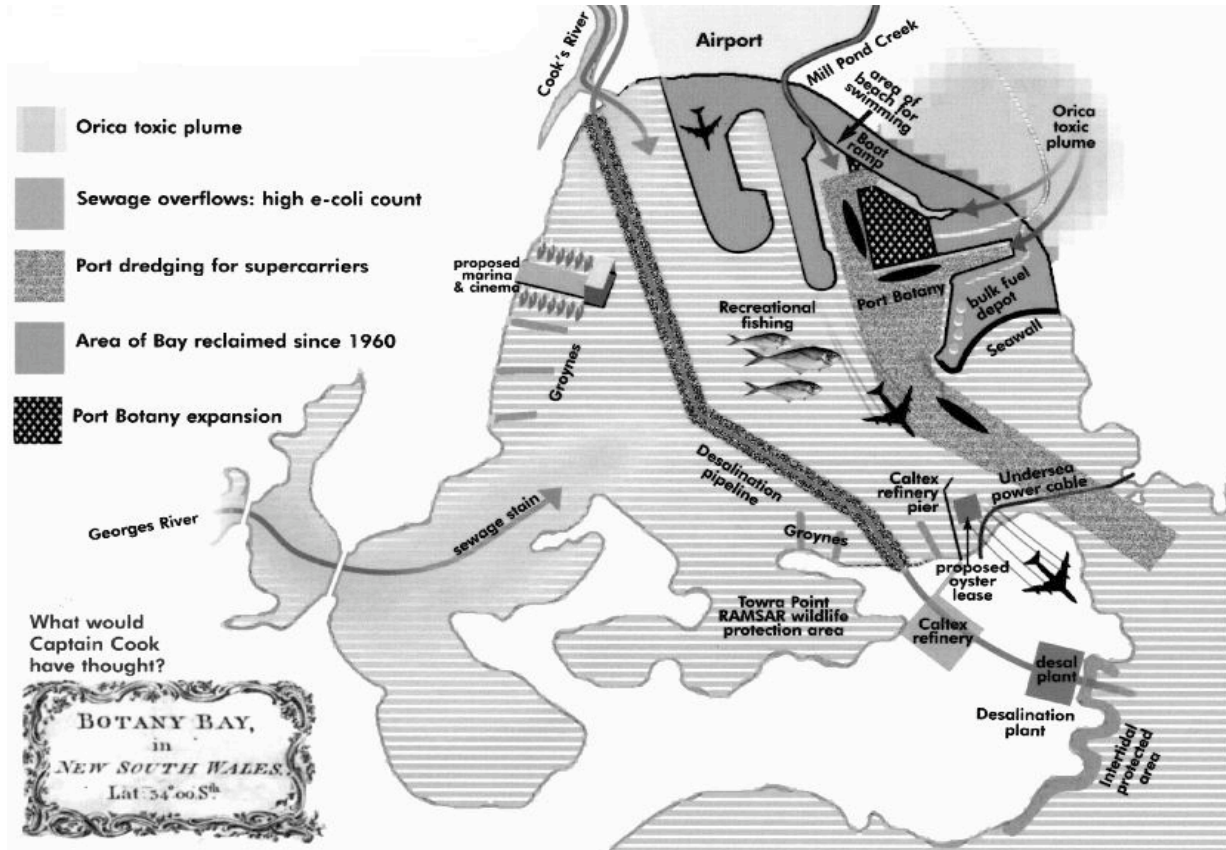


ENVIRONMENTALLY SPEAKING 17

Spring 2008 Randwick South Ward Environment News www.laperouse.info

Social Change not Climate Change



NEW SOUTH WALES



"Orta Recens Quam Pura Nites,"
Recently arisen, how brightly you shine¹

FIRST CONGESTION TAX IN AUSTRALIA - NSW STATE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO IPART INQUIRY

Minister for Ports, Infrastructure and Finance, Joe Tripodi, released the Government's response to the IPART Inquiry on September 17. Full IPART report and Government's 14 page response at <http://maritime.nsw.gov.au/landside.html#ipart>



Weekday truck entries in the stevedores' terminals by hour of day (from Reforming Port Botany's Links with Inland Transport, James P Cox and Dennis Mahoney, IPART, in "Network", ACCC publication, June 2008.

In the Press Release, Minister Tripodi refers to the Californian "Peak Pricing" system but fails to mention some very basic facts about the largest container port in the USA, California's Long Beach.

Long Beach is located 40km from the Los Angeles CBD and 35 km from the airport.

Contrast this with Port Botany which is 10km from Sydney's CBD and adjacent Australia's largest airport. The largest container port in Britain is 110km south of London. Even at this distance there are problems with empty containers and some are being diverted to the

¹ The NSW State motto

Port of Poole to be shipped around to Felixstowe for 'export'.

IPART and the Government are ignoring the empties problem, but it is growing fast – 12.9% higher than 2006/7 – and in the 2007/08 financial year 486,768 empty containers (TEUs) were exported through Port Botany.



A repositioned empty container post peak oil

These are some of the key points in the government's response (with quotations in *italics*):

1. Congestion concerns acknowledged:

The IPART Report acknowledges that concerns about congestion at Port Botany were correct and the landside interface needs attention to cope with current and future demand for container imports. The Government intends to embark on a phased strategy to improve the competitive access and service arrangements guiding container movements between stevedores and transport carriers.

2. A Congestion tax will be levied to 'encourage' exporters and importers to use off-peak slots.

That means more trucks on the roads at weekends when families are accessing the M5, Foreshore and Botany Roads to reach the South Eastern beaches and other recreation in the area. It also means more trucks on the journey home during the week.

There will be more trucks on the roads during the early hours of the morning and late at night.

3. The Government still assumes that it is possible to put more than double rail's share of containers to 40%. Even if achieved, and this is highly unlikely, **there will still be more trucks on the road.**

4. **The 30 metre long Super B Doubles will stay, mixing with buses, motorists, cyclists. What other global city as these monsters so close to its CBD.**

5. The first phase of the new order will focus on *improving transparency and providing industry developing, agreeing and implementing responses, including performance standards*

and peak pricing, with the assistance and leadership of Sydney Ports Corporation (SPC).

6. If Phase 1 doesn't work, Phase 2 will be introduced. The language in the report hints that there is little faith in Phase 1 working. *In Phase Two, SPC **will** implement an integrated on-line auction system. This capped "falling price" auction would set a maximum peak slot price that falls as slots remain unsold – the "Dutch Auction".*

7. *The Government supports IPART's view that surplus revenues from an auction system should be used to fund efficiency improvements at the landside interface. It is **proposed for net revenues from peak pricing mechanisms to be directed towards a Port Landside Infrastructure Fund, to be used for landside infrastructure that improves the supply chain efficiency of both road and rail.***

8. IPART recommended *that the stevedores provide basic amenities such as toilets and cold drinking water to truck drivers who are required to queue to gain access to the stevedores' terminals. IPART supports efforts by Sydney Ports Corporation to progress a truck marshalling location at Port Botany. The Government has responded: Queuing systems should promote compliance with heavy vehicle driver fatigue management regulations..... **Where necessary and feasible SPC will provide marshalling space for early arrival trucks.***

9. The Government notes that ACS (*Australian Customs Service*) has further advised there is no proposal to increase its throughput in the near future.

There are no guarantees that ACS and AQIS protocols won't change. Peter Garrett commented when he was first the member for Kingsford Smith that the percentage of containers being screened was too low. And what about other unforeseen events - remember the headlines and the queues in October 2005 "Wharves piled high as Customs computer fails"

10. The Government suggests that the new tax will encourage backloading (trucks making the return journey loaded with containers), but there has been insufficient research to indicate that this will be feasible for many operators.

The elephant in the room is the Port Expansion itself. It is madness to expand Australia's second largest container port next to Australia's largest airport, both within 10km of Australia's largest CBD.

DESALINATION



Platform in Yarra Bay, August

Premier Nathan Rees has said that whales would avoid the structure when they return from northern waters in spring. **"I have every confidence the whales will swim around it,"** he said.

The total cost of the desalination project is estimated at \$1.9 billion.

RANDWICK MAYOR, BRUCE NOTLEY-SMITH AT THE LAUNCH OF PERMACULTURE EAST 17th September



For more information: permaeast@gmail.com

TRAILER PARKING BAN ON FORESHORE ROAD – 12 years overdue

In August, Minister Tripodi announced that trailer parking would be banned on Foreshore Road and the speed limit lowered to 80km. The trial begins mid-September.

The following is from the Media Release: *"We are aware that trailer parking and speeding are concerns for the community around one of the biggest hubs of economic activity in the state."*

*"The group, made up of representatives from the RTA, NSW Police, local MPs and Councils, Australian Trucking Association and trailer hire company Skel Hire, agreed that **trailer parking should be discouraged on Foreshore Road.**"*

CONCERNS indeed as if the Minister is doing the residents a 'favour'.

In 1996 the **PORT BOTANY SAFETY STUDY OVERVIEW REPORT** published by the Dept of Planning (then called Urban Affairs and Planning) made it very clear that there should be restrictions on roadside parking and queuing. Recommendation 3.4:

"Restrictions on roadside parking and queuing of heavy vehicles in the port area should be strictly enforced to reduce the likelihood of traffic obstructions causing dangerous goods transport accidents."

Foreshore Road may have been built to service Port Botany but Botany Road – from Penrhyn to Bunnerong – was not. Foreshore Road is a major east-west link for domestic and commercial vehicles other than trucks.



FOOD MILES AND FAIR MILES

Food transportation across the globe is making a significant contribution to climate change.

- Food in the UK travels 65% further than it did two decades ago.
- Heinz ketchup eaten in California is made with California-grown tomatoes shipped to Canada for processing and returned in bottles.
- In one year, the port of New York City exported \$431,000 of California almonds to Italy, and imported \$397,000 of Italian almonds to the US.

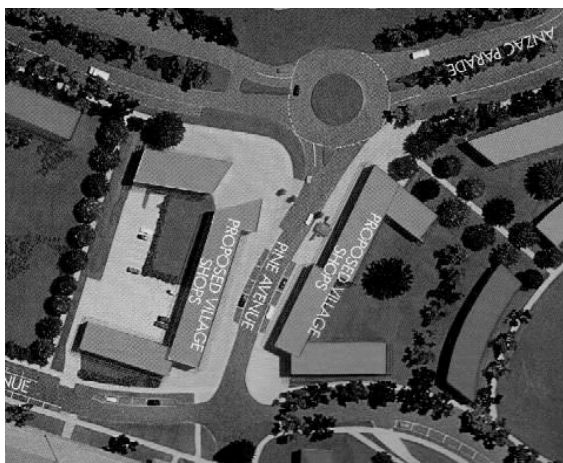
- In 2004, the UK imported 17,200 tonnes of chocolate-covered wafers and exported 17,600; imported 43,993 tonnes of potatoes whilst exporting 85,652; and imported 25,720 tonnes of milk and cream, only to export 27,125 at the same time. (from New Internationalist www.newint.org)
- The 7 most boycotted companies in 2005 were: Nike, Coke, McDonalds, Nestle, Adidas, Gap, Burger King²

² From a study of 15,500 consumers in 17 countries: US, UK, India, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, China, Poland, Denmark, Spain, Malaysia, Russia, by GMI poll, <http://www.GMIPoll.com>

Barcelona, Spain, 6 October, 2008, the IUCN Conservation Congress reported that a comprehensive assessment of the world's mammals has confirmed an extinction crisis, with almost one in four at risk of disappearing forever. Habitat loss and degradation affect 40 percent of the world's mammals. It is most extreme in Central and South America, West, East and Central Africa, Madagascar, and in South and Southeast Asia.

PRINCE HENRY UPDATE

Proposed entry to site with 'shopping' village, including healthcare facilities. In the new proposal the developer wants a larger footprint, extra residential units and a reduced community 'shopping' village.



The Land and Environment Court hearing has been set for 10-12 December 2008 inclusive, commencing with an on site view at 9.30am. It is most likely that that on-site evidence would be heard on **10 December 2008. Come along and make your views known.**

BOTANY BAY CABLE

The Energy Australia Botany Bay Cable was approved in the week before Christmas 2007 by the incoming Federal Environment Minister, Peter Garrett. The cable will take a route from Kurnell to the La Perouse Headland and then along Anzac Parade and Bunnerong Road. The additional capacity is required for more housing in the eastern suburbs as well as major projects like the Port Botany Expansion. The cable will be laid 3 meters below the current shipping channel and **allowances for future channel deepening and widening will be made.** There are concerns that the integrity of the Bare Island diving site will be compromised.

- **October 2008 – December 2008: survey work along the route**
- **March 2009 – March 2010: progressive cabling work**
- **February 2009 – August 2009: boring from La Perouse headland to offshore**
- **August 2009 – February 2010: Cable Installation across Botany Bay**

You might look at the map of the Bay and wonder why the cable to Bunnerong wasn't directed to Molineux Point and then along Prince of Wales Drive. That route would have avoided Bare Island, the National Park, Anzac Parade and residents - all of lesser concern as Sydney Ports controls Molineux Point and Prince of Wales Drive.

To buy, or not to buy, that is the question!

Saturday November 29th 2008 is **Buy Nothing Day**. It's a day where you challenge yourself, your family and friends to switch off from shopping and tune into life. The rules are simple, for 24 hours you will detox from consumerism and live without shopping. Anyone can take part provided they spend a day without spending! To view 'the pitch' from the Gruen Transfer (ABC) go to <http://www.abc.net.au/tv/gruentransfer/poll/vote/past.htm>

October 4-10 – World Space Week

October 19-25 – National Water Week
www.nationalwaterweek.org.au

October 16 – World Food Day

November 11 – 5pm Botany Town Hall Community Meeting Orica HCB & Carpark Waste

November 15 - Walk Against Warming International Day of Action on Climate Change
www.walkagainstawarming.org/



November 18 – Port Botany Neighbourhood Liaison Group Meeting

November 29 – International Buy Nothing Day

5th December
International Volunteer Day
www.volunteeringaustralia.org

December 10 - 9.30am: Land & Environment Court Hearing Prince Henry

Lynda Newnam October 2008 www.laperouse.info