

SUSTAINABILITY SPEAKING

No 11. Winter 2013

MAJOR FIRE IN BOTANY DIDN'T RATE A MENTION IN *SOUTHERN COURIER*



On the 1st June a fire broke out in a scrap metal yard at Meadow Way in Botany. The facility is in close proximity to the Botany Industrial Park which includes three Major Hazard Facilities as well as the drummed stockpile of Orica's Hexachlorobenzene (HCB) waste. Flames reportedly reached more

than 20 metres. While the fire was ably contained by the Fire and Rescue Services, aided by staff at Qenos, questions remain about the extent of the risk, controls and community education on risk, emergency preparedness, and communication during events.

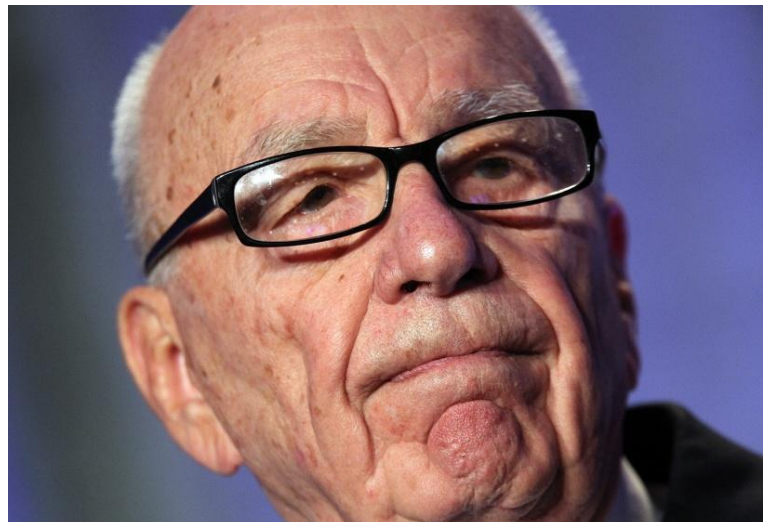
Police and Fire and Rescue personnel attended an extraordinary meeting of the Orica Community Participation and Review Committee (CPRC) on July 2 to assist in addressing community concerns. It was notable that the Southern Courier showed no interest in covering the story and assisting with the community education process.

OBAMA, MURDOCH & RUDD ON THE SAME PAGE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE: *The Greatest Challenge of our Time*

"Imagine if we succeed in inspiring our audiences to reduce their own impacts on climate change by just one percent."

Rupert Murdoch

In a speech given to 47,000 News Corporation employees around the world on the 9th of May, 2007, Rupert Murdoch shared his ideas on global warming and the impact that his energy initiative would have on his company. The then 76 year old media mogul gave the talk live by webcast at the



Hudson Theatre, New York City. Murdoch talked about the influence of News Corporation in his speech:

"We can do something that's unique, different from just any other company. We can set an example, and we can reach our audiences. Our audience's carbon footprint is 10,000 times bigger than ours. That's the carbon footprint we want to conquer.

We cannot do it with gimmicks. We need to reach them in a sustained way. To weave this issue into our content-- make it dramatic, make it vivid, even sometimes make it fun. We want to inspire people to change their behaviour. Imagine if we succeed in inspiring our audiences to reduce their own impacts on climate change by just one percent. That would be like turning the State of California off for almost two months. And imagine if.. we were able to take on the carbon footprint of our audience in Asia. Many of the most serious impacts of climate change will be felt there, and China and India's emissions are rising rapidly. STAR is the number one Hindi-language network in the world. In India alone, we reach 100 million people. The challenge is to revolutionize the message." News Limited's initiatives in Australia:

<http://www.1degree.com.au>



In March 2007 Prime Minister Kevin Rudd outlined a seven-point framework for climate action which included a national emissions trading scheme(ETS), clean coal technology, mandatory renewable and energy efficiency targets, a framework for corporate and community responsibility, diplomacy and the adequacy of Australian national institutional arrangements.

"..when it comes to the great change and challenge of the next period ahead of us, it is an area where we must act and act soon," he said.

"I am optimistic that we in this country can do that and that may well be our significant contribution to the planet, particularly if we get clean coal technology right."

On the 25th June this year, President Obama gave a speech at Georgetown University in the middle of a sweltering summer day, sweat dripping down his face and loud planes buzzing overhead: Someday, our children, and our children's children, will look at us in the eye and they'll ask us, did we do all that we could when we had the chance to deal with this problem and leave them a cleaner, safer, more stable world?....."I refuse to condemn your generation and future generations to a planet that's beyond fixing," he pledged.



"We will be judged as a people, and as a society, and as a country on where we go from here."

EPA MERCURY REVIEW - ORICA

The EPA have called for information about the Orica Chlorine Plant operations. The close off for providing information is the 26th July. EPA staff will be available at **Southpoint Shopping Centre** from **9am to 12pm on Saturday the 13th and 20th July** to answer any questions.

LIGHT RAIL – HIGH ON COST & LIGHT ON SERVICE FOR SOUTH WARD

In November 2006, the NSW Government categorically ruled out building a light rail system in Sydney's CBD, on the grounds that:



“light rail would only take about 20% of the buses off the streets of our city”;

“light rail would rely on the transfer of significant numbers of bus passengers at the CBD periphery to the light rail system – patronage studies have shown that commuters are reluctant to use public transport once an interchange is imposed”;

“surveys suggest that up to as many as 89% of bus commuters want a direct trip into and out of the city, not an interchange onto another transport mode”; and

that:

“the lead time and construction requirements to implement a light rail system are significant, disruptive and costly”.

This has not deterred NSW Transport Minister Gladys Berejiklian from pushing ahead with the City and South-East projects. She recently announced the appointment of Jeff Goodling to head up the project team. Between December 1998 and February 2010 Goodling worked for Oregon's (USA) public transit TriMet and in particular on the Portland Light Rail project. The success of the project has come under scrutiny eg:

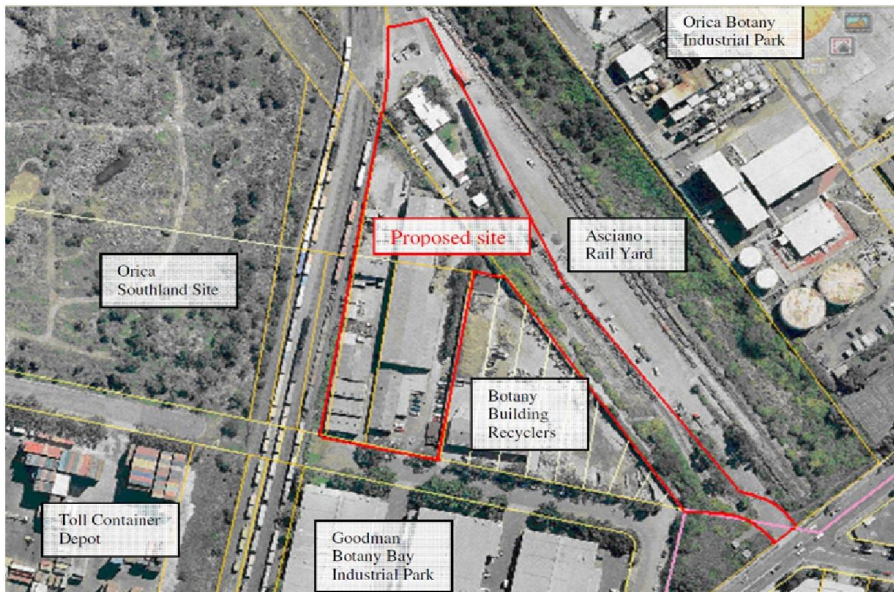
Despite Portland's pro-transit policies, the three county transit work trip market share fell from 9.7% in 1980, before the first light rail line was opened, to 7.4% in 2000, after two light rail lines had opened. Two more light rail lines and 9 years later, (2009) the three county transit work trip market share had fallen to 7.4%, despite the boost of higher gasoline prices. The three county transit work trip market share loss from 9.7% in 1980 to 7.4% in 2009 calculates to a near one-quarter market share loss. By contrast, Seattle's three county metropolitan area, without light rail until 2009, experienced a 5% increase in transit work trip market share from 1980 to 2009 (8.3% to 8.7%).

On July 2 this year, the Oregon Legislature overwhelmingly approved a state audit of TriMet. **The chief sponsor of the House Bill said that TriMet had a reputation for ignoring problems and operating behind closed doors. Mr Goodling will be at home in Transport for NSW as the organisation is fast acquiring a reputation for lack of transparency.**

(Photo: Cyclist in Melbourne protesting Light Rail design).

WASTE TRANSFER STATION – BANKSMEADOW – Heavy Vehicle Saturation

Veolia Environmental Services is proposing to develop a new general solid waste rail transfer facility in Banksmeadow with access via Beauchamp Road.



Up to 500,000 tonnes of waste per annum will be received at the facility, with mixed household and commercial waste containerised for transfer to Veolia's site at Woodlawn by rail for treatment and resource recovery, and any recyclable material consolidated and transferred to Veolia's proposed new recycling facility in Camellia. Details of the proposal are on the Department of Planning www.planing.nsw.gov.au. The project is supported by the Southern Sydney Region of Councils (SSROC)

which includes Botany and Randwick Councils. Because of the nature of the waste the development would require an EPA licence adding to more than 25 licensed premises in the region. This development will generate garbage truck movements mostly during morning peak in an area where trucks have a significant and growing impact. The supporters of the project point to the benefits of being able to rail waste out of Sydney but they have little to say about the trucks entering and leaving the site, the competition with container freight for rail share, as well as proximity to Port Botany and proposed higher density residential developments.

SYDNEY AIRPORT PLANS TO DOUBLE PASSENGER CAPACITY TO 74 MILLION BY 2033

SYDNEY AIRPORT PLAN B:
AFTER THE OIL RUNS OUT



The Corporation believes that the key to greater efficiency lies in fixing the ground transport around the airport. The 20 year Master Plan will be presented to the Federal Government by the end of the year. The responsible Minister is likely to be Anthony Albanese (Labor) or Warren Truss (Liberal). If you wish to express a view on the Kingsford Smith Plan or on a proposed second airport details on the respective members are at <http://anthonyalbanese.com.au> and <http://www.warrentruss.com>

Lynda Newnam July 2013