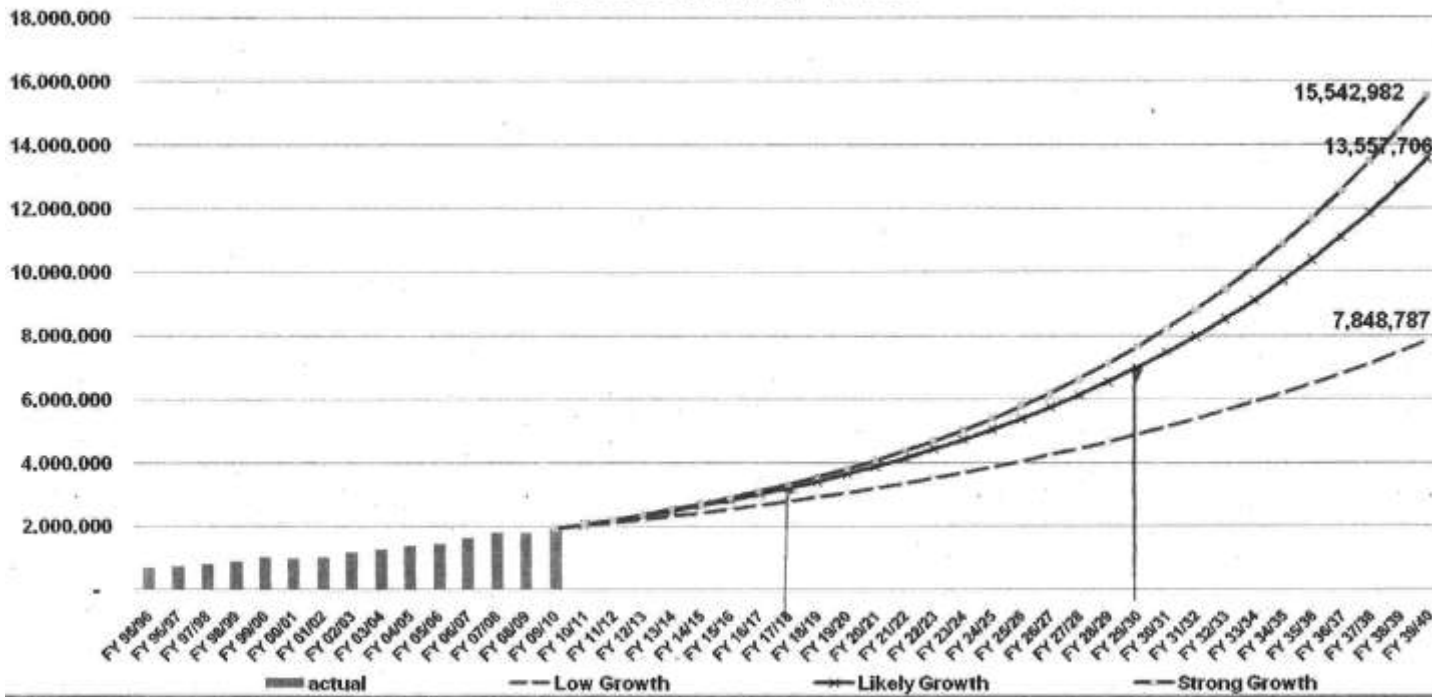


SUSTAINABILITY SPEAKING

No 2 Summer 2010 - 2011

Sydney's Growth Projections – 30 Year

Total Container Trade



EQUIPING SYDNEY PORTS FOR GROWTH



is the title of a presentation given a few weeks ago by the CEO of Sydney Ports Corporation to Ports Australia. The slide titled “Sydney’s Growth Projections - 30 year” shows the cap of 3.2million containers (as TEU = Twenty Foot Equivalent) being reached around 2017 with 7 million being achieved by 2030 and within 30 years the figure is 13,557,706.

The current trade through Port Botany is around 2 million and Sydney isn’t coping with that. Even moving more containers by rail is not going to address growth at this level. Under the Government’s Ports Growth Plan(2003) Newcastle was expected to be the next container port after Port Botany reached capacity. The public have been led to believe that the capacity referred to is 3.2million TEU, because the modeling for the

Environmental Impact Statement for the Port Expansion was based on this figure and 3.2 million is set as the cap in the planning approval granted by the then Planning Minister, Minister Sartor. The major reason given for the \$1 billion expansion was that Port Botany was running out of room and a third terminal was required to accommodate growth to 3.2 million. Both existing stevedores argued that far more than 3.2 million could be achieved at the existing terminals. The Commission of Inquiry recommended against the expansion.

There are alternatives to allowing Port Botany to grow out of control. These alternatives include a suite of options including the Inland Rail with Parkes as a major distribution hub for the Eastern seaboard and the development of Port Kembla servicing intermodals in Sydney and the Southern Highlands (for details see Wingecarribee Council’s Submission to National Ports Strategy).

Critical to the Kembla development is the completion of the Maldon-Dombarton rail line. The Maldon-Dombarton Issues Paper is currently on exhibition.
Email: MaldonDombarton@infrastructure.gov.au or
phone: 1800 005 221

Port Botany is located only 10km south of the CBD of Australia's largest city. The biggest container port in the UK is Felixstowe, over 90km south of London.

The proposed Maldon-Dombarton rail link is a 35 kilometre standard gauge rail line connecting the Illawarra Line from Wollongong to the Main Southern Line running from Sydney via Campbelltown. The line was originally proposed and partially constructed by the NSW Government, commencing in 1983. Construction ceased in 1988 following a reassessment of the demand case by the NSW Government. The rail corridor is not believed to have been compromised. Approximately two-thirds of earthworks along the rail corridor have been completed, as well as the entry cuts to the tunnel portals and construction access roads to the tunnel and catchment area. However some significant infrastructure has not been constructed, including a number of bridges.



Opening the Foreshore Boat Ramp 14.10.10 – Minister for Ports Roozendaal and Sydney Ports CEO, Mr Grant Gilfillian.

PRIVATISING PUBLIC ASSETS

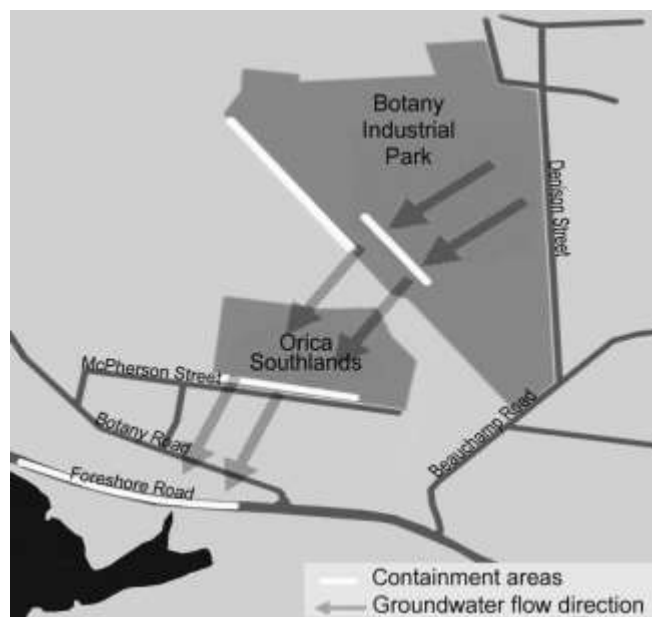
WILL PORT BOTANY BE NEXT?

PORT OF BRISBANE SOLD UNDER A 99 YEAR LEASE FOR \$2.3billion - 10/11/10

ORICA FINALLY RESPONDS TO DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING REPORT ON FLOODING ISSUES AT SOUTHLANDS

For the past year the Department of Planning website has shown the status of the Southlands Project as *Proponent Reviewing Submissions*. At the last Community meeting for the year, held 14/12/10, Orica advised that a response had recently been provided addressing the concerns raised in the Department of Planning's independent Flood Assessment of the site. The public does not have access to either the Flood Assessment or the Traffic Assessment which the (publicly funded) Department of Planning commissioned. Arguments have been put to the Department for a major phytoremediation project which would involve revegetating Southlands with Swamp Melaleucas, the original vegetation. The aim would be to

filter toxins from the Botany Aquifer. Orica are already having success with bioremediation trials at Southlands. Revegetation of the site would also provide habitat for native species and in addition an offset for the environmental damage that Orica is responsible for in the Botany Aquifer and elsewhere. Southlands is the site of Orica's primary containment line and the groundwater contains the worst of the contamination.



THE HON GREG COMBET AM MP Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency MEDIA RELEASE 15/12/2010 COASTAL MAPS HELP AUSTRALIA PREPARE FOR IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

... The Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, Greg Combet, said the maps identifying low-lying areas in Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Hunter and Central Coast, and South East Queensland demonstrated that it was essential to engage in early planning for the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

"The Government recognises that coastal areas of Australia are a priority for adaptation action, with many communities vulnerable to impacts such as erosion and sea inundation," Mr Combet said....

...Mr Combet said that every day, decisions were being made for new housing developments and infrastructure in coastal areas and having this information would help the community prepare for the future effects which climate change could have.

"Additionally we need to face the challenge of starting to prepare for impacts to existing developments where past decision making did not address climate change impacts and where areas may be vulnerable to inundation as the sea level rises," Mr Combet said.

The maps are available online via the OzCoasts website www.ozcoasts.org.au.

MALABAR WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT



Sydney Water is planning to implement an Odour Management Project at Malabar Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). This project will reduce the risk of odours impacting on the surrounding community by improving the effectiveness of odour control at the plant.

The Review of Environmental Factors is available on request from malabarwwtp@sydneywater.com.au. The review does contain an independent assessment of the visual impact of the stack but no modeling for optimum height or placement of the stack, which is critical to effective dispersal of odour.

The REF assesses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed work. It has been on display from **Monday 15 November to Monday 29 November 2010.**

MAJOR HAZARD FACILITIES (MHF)



are facilities that have the potential to cause major accidents, where the consequences may rival natural disasters in terms of loss of life, injury, damage to property and disruption of activities affecting people at the workplace and the surrounding community and environment. There are 42 Major Hazard Facilities (MHFs) in NSW and 10 of these are located on North Botany Bay in postcodes 2019 and 2036. This is by far the largest cluster in the State.

5 of the 10 are located on the DP World Terminal (part of the La Perouse Precinct of Randwick Council) across from La Perouse and Phillip Bay, 2 are located in Banksmeadow, 3 are located on the Botany Industrial

Park(BIP). MHFs are facilities such as oil refineries, chemical processing plants, large chemical and gas storage depots and large chemical warehouses that have dangerous goods in amounts that exceed specified threshold quantities.

Operators of MHFs or potential MHFs have certain obligations under the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001*, particularly in [chapter 6B](#), which aims to reduce the risk of major accidents and minimise the consequences in the event of a major accident. Specific reference is made to 'members of the public' in Part 6B.2 Clause 17C and Part 6B.3, Clauses 175A, 175E. Workcover is the coordinating agency for MHFs. Keeping the Community informed about MHFs and the associated risks is an important part of the process.

This is the list of MHFs on North Botany Bay: **DP WORLD TERMINAL** – Elgas, Origin Energy, Qenos, Vopak Site A, Vopak Site B. **BOTANY INDUSTRIAL PARK** - Huntsman, Qenos, Orica. **BANKSMEADOW** - Solvay, United Initiators

A search of the Randwick City Council website for a copy of the Emergency Management Plan provided only a "Context Paper". There was no link in the A-Z list of services. No link to the Local Randwick Emergency Management Committee. This was in contrast to what was available for Manly, Marrickville and particularly the City of Sydney which provided a series of webpages. The suburbs of postcode - 2036 - contain 8 of the 42 Major Hazard Facilities in the NSW. They are also in close proximity to other industrials which fall just below the MHF threshold. There is considerable interest in emergency risk management and Council does have responsibilities in planning and communication. These issues were raised in an email to the Randwick City Council General Manager on 29 September 2010. A web page was created on November 5 (Guy Fawkes Day) and a reply to the email was received November 9. The link to the webpage is found via "A Sense of Community". But there is still no link in the A-Z list of services at this site. There are files on 'what to do for a storm event' but nothing on chemical spills and other scenarios that are associated with Major Hazard Facilities in the State. (First photo above is a simulated Ignitable LNG Vapour Cloud)

A BAD MELBOURNE CUP DAY IN BOTANY



The Qenos Flare last Melbourne Cup Day could be seen from the North Shore and not surprisingly evoked an estimated 50 calls to the emergency line and 4 to the Botany Industrial Park hotline. Seven fire engines were dispatched to different sites. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in gas was lost in the flare. The Department of Environment, Climate

Change and Water are investigating but there has been no assessment of the efficiency or effectiveness of the emergency response let alone any communication in a media release to the community living in this Major Hazard Facility region.

RESEARCHERS DEVELOP A WAY TO FUNNEL SOLAR ENERGY

New antenna made of carbon nanotubes could make photovoltaic cells more efficient. CAMBRIDGE, Mass. 12/9/10 — Using carbon nanotubes (hollow tubes of carbon atoms), MIT chemical engineers have found a way to concentrate solar energy 100 times more than a regular photovoltaic cell. Such nanotubes could form antennas that capture and focus light energy, potentially allowing much smaller and more powerful solar arrays. “Instead of having your whole roof be a photovoltaic cell, you could have little spots that were tiny photovoltaic cells, with antennas that would drive photons into them,” says Michael Strano, the Charles and Hilda Roddey Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering and leader of the research team.

BEACHWATCH REPORT 2010



(Photo: Congwong Bay)

In polluted waters, swimmers may be exposed to pathogens, which can easily enter the ears, eyes, nose and mouth. The skin is also directly exposed to infectious agents and chemicals through swimming, playing or working in polluted waters. This exposure can lead to a variety of health problems including gastroenteritis, flu-like illnesses, dermatitis, ear, nose and throat infections, sinusitis and deep tissue or blood infections through open wounds. The number of pathogens required to cause infections varies widely between micro-organisms and the general health of an individual. Children, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems appear to be at greater risk. Visitors without prior immunity may also be at higher risk than the local population.

(NOTE: INFORMATION EXTRACTED FROM THE STATE OF THE BEACHES REPORT FOR 2010 PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER)

Beach Suitability Grades for North Botany Bay and South Ward

Very Good – NO SITES - Location has generally excellent microbial water quality and very few potential sources of faecal pollution. Water is considered suitable for swimming for almost all of the time. (Note Little Congwong is the only beach on North Botany Bay not tested).

Good - LITTLE BAY, CONGWONG -Location has generally good microbial water quality and water is considered suitable for swimming for most of the time. Swimming should be avoided during and for up to one day following heavy rain at ocean beaches and for up to three days at estuarine sites.

Fair - YARRA BAY -Microbial water quality is generally suitable for swimming, but because of the presence of significant sources of faecal contamination, extra care should be taken to avoid swimming during and for up to three days following rainfall or if there are signs of pollution such as discoloured water, odour, or debris in the water.

Poor - FRENCHMANS BAY -Location is susceptible to faecal pollution and microbial water quality is not always suitable for swimming. During dry weather conditions, ensure that the swimming location is free of signs of pollution, such as discoloured water, odour or debris in the water, and avoid swimming at all times during and for up to three days following rainfall.

Very Poor - MALABAR, FORESHORE BEACH - Location is very susceptible to faecal pollution and microbial water quality may often be unsuitable for swimming. It is generally recommended to avoid swimming at these sites.

Swimming-related pathogens and illnesses

Pathogen	Illness
Enteric Bacteria	
<i>Camplobacter</i>	Gastroenteritis
<i>Salmonella</i>	Gastroenteritis
<i>Pseudomonas</i>	Skin and ear infections
<i>Shigella</i>	Bacillary dysentery
Viruses	
<i>Rotaviruses</i>	Diarrhoea, vomiting
<i>Adenoviruses</i>	Respiratory disease, gastroenteritis
<i>Noroviruses</i>	Diarrhoea, vomiting
<i>Hepatitis</i>	Hepatitis A and E
Parasitic Protozoa	
<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	Diarrhoea
<i>Giardia</i>	Diarrhoea