

SUSTAINABILITY SPEAKING

No 9. Summer 2012

FREIGHT PREDICTED TO OUTSTRIP POPULATION GROWTH BY 10:1

Figure 2.4 Future Infrastructure Demands (percentage growth)



Road – Car Trips
2011 – 8.6m
2031 – 10.9m
27%
2.3 million more daily car trips need to be accommodated on our roads in 2031-32.



Road – Bus trips
2011 – 0.7m
2031 – 0.9m
16%
An extra 121,000 more bus trips each day need to be accommodated on our roads.



Train trips
2011 – 0.8m
2031 – 1.1m
37%
An extra 326,000 train trips each day are expected in 2031-32, including the new South West and North West Services.



Sydney Airport
2010 – 40m
2029 – 79m
98%
An extra 39 million Passenger trips are expected to and from Sydney airport by 2029.



Port Botany – Container trade
2011 – 2m TEU
2031 – 7m TEU
272%
Freight demand grows at a multiple of 1.5 to 2 times GSP and an extra 5 million TEUs are expected in 2031-32.



Coal Freight
2011 – 170mt
2031 – 370mt
117%
Export of coal is expected to more than double in the next twenty years.



Hospital Beds
2011 – 20,000
2031 – 25,500
28%
An extra 5,500 hospital beds may be needed by 2031-32.



Housing Stock
2011 – 2.9m
2031 – 3.6m
26%
More than 700,000 additional houses will be needed by 2031-32; this means around 35,000 each year.



Electricity
2011 – 71.5 Twh
2031 – 81.1 Twh
14%
Electricity consumption has fallen since 2009 and is only expected to increase by 14% in 20 years.

Infrastructure NSW projections to 2031 show a population increase around 27.5%. In the same time electricity consumption will increase around half that rate but freight from Port Botany will increase at around 10 times the rate. The Strategy, called First Steps, is available at www.insw.com. Illustration above is on page 38.

PORTS ASSETS BILL



The Government's Ports Assets Bill passed the Legislative Council on November 21. The Shooters and Fishers and Christian Democrats voted against all proposed amendments including the one to keep Molineux public lookout in public hands.

The following are some of the prominent figures behind the 'sale' of Port Botany, Port Kembla, Enfield and Cooks River Terminal.

Richard Wagner, Managing Director Investment Management Division, at Morgan Stanley is heading negotiations. **Tim Spencer** is the Deputy Secretary Commercial Policy and Financing in NSW Treasury. He worked on the sale of Port Brisbane for the Bligh Government and was reportedly poached from Queensland Treasury for the NSW assets sales. **Mike Baird** is the Member for Manly and NSW Treasurer and **Greg Pearce** is a Government member in the Legislative Council and Minister for

Finance and the Illawarra. Duncan Gay is a National in the Legislative Council and is Minister for Ports. In reply to questions about the Port 'Sale' Mr Gay has consistently suggested contacting the Treasurer for information concerning the 'sale' of the Port. He is photographed below at the opening of the Port Botany Truck Marshalling Yard at Bumborah Point. (Clockwise – Richard Wagner, Tim Spencer, Mike Baird & Greg Pearce, Duncan Gay).



ports facilities and services in the future, which will allow the Government to focus its resources on delivering critical services and infrastructure for the people of NSW.”

Why wouldn't the same argument apply to Sydney Ports assets on Sydney Harbour? Why weren't they included in the Ports Assets Bill? Or perhaps such a sale would have upset residents in the Harbourside electorates.

A private lessee of both Port Botany and Port Kembla will be in a position to demand the development of major supporting rail and road infrastructure. Had Port Kembla been retained as a public asset the Government could have concentrated on decentralisation of freight, a strategy that was once Nationals' policy.

Instead of selling Port Kembla the Government could have considered decentralising Parliament and the CBD based government bureaucracy to Homebush – closer to the population centre of Sydney. Above is a photograph of the view from Governor Macquarie Tower - NSW Treasury is located on the 27th floor.

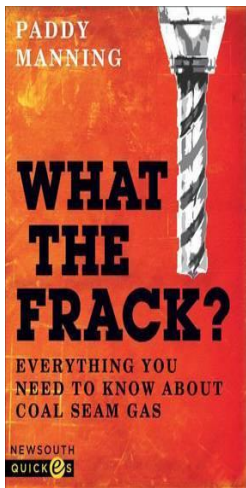
OUR LOCAL POST OFFICES

It's been two and half years since the post offices closed in Matraville and Eastgardens. Botany municipality retained a post office in Hillsdale but Randwick lost out.

Australia Post continues to make a profit - \$281 million in the last financial year with the CEO, Mr Ahmed Fahour paid \$1.896 million. According to a recent report in the Sydney Morning Herald postal workers last year were paid a Christmas bonus of \$500. This year it was reduced to a \$100 voucher to be spent at Postal Shops. The bonus earned by Mr Fahour was \$874,000.

Has anyone calculated the time lost over the past two and half years by the former patrons of Eastgardens and Matraville?





COAL SEAM GAS

Will fracking thousands of coal seam gas wells 'poison our food bowl'? Will coal seam gas really help tackle climate change? Where will they be drilling next? Paddy Manning's book has taken him to drill sites, boardrooms, parliamentary offices and farm gate protests. **It is published as an e-book costing \$4.99.** The book was launched on December 9 by the NSW Shadow Minister for the Environment, Luke Foley. Mr Foley in his address praised the environmental protection policies of Labor premiers McKell, Wran and Carr and was scathing of some in the previous government who he suggested had a 'sneering contempt for community concern.' Mr Foley entered the Legislative Council in June 2010 taking up a vacancy left by Mr Ian Macdonald.

DISABLED FISHING AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES



Almost a quarter of all rockfishing deaths in Australia have occurred in the South East of Randwick Municipality. The government could do something smart to address that problem by building fishing platforms at Molineux Point. The fishing there is good and access via Prince of Wales Drive is infinitely superior to what is available elsewhere in Southern Randwick. At Brown's Rock in Botany Bay National Park the access is very difficult. At Bare Island fishers are in conflict with divers.

If proper platforms were built at Molineux they could also be suitable for disabled fishing. Molineux is not 'sold' yet. The Port Assets Bill is enabling legislation. The Government still has time to work out a solution with Randwick Council to ensure that not only does Molineux and Prince of Wales Drive stay in public hands but that access is improved for more visitors. After all, this is the final leg of the Coastal Walk and

part of the first leg of the Botany Bay Trail. The Point also provides the best and historically most important views of Botany Bay.

REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT – COUNCIL AMALGAMATIONS

So far consultation has been limited but you still have until May 2013 to make your voice heard in this important debate. Go to www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au check out the submissions and latest report and follow on Facebook.

Coastal Vulnerability to Multiple Inundation Sources Project (COVERMAR)

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group have partnered with the University of New South Wales Australia - Pacific Tsunami Research Centre & Natural Hazards Research Laboratory (UNSW APTRC) and are undertaking a research project addressing Coastal Vulnerability to Multiple Inundation Sources (COVERMAR). The project will develop a multi-hazard tool to assess the vulnerability of buildings and critical infrastructure to extreme marine inundations caused by both storm surges and tsunamis. Inundation scenarios will be simulated using state-of-the-art numerical models, under present and predicted future climate conditions, and tested at three NSW study sites. The Review can be downloaded at:

www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/sites/default/files/COVER_MAR_literature_review.pdf

NSW FREIGHT AND PORTS STRATEGY

The Draft Strategy is open for public consultation until Monday, 11 February 2013. More Information at www.freightandportsstrategy.transport.nsw.gov.au

CLEAN BEACHES IN BOTANY BAY– IF ONLY!



A cleaner, family friendly Foreshore Beach with shower and toilet facilities was promised as part of the Port Botany Expansion and envisioned in this artist's drawing. But the water quality is Very Poor - rated in the recent State of the Beaches Report and the beach is heavily eroded. So eroded that Sydney Ports will be spending up to \$3 million to install two or three groynes. It was the obvious outcome that the experts denied would occur when the Port Expansion Environmental Impact Statement was on exhibition. One person who did recognise

the potential environmental impacts was Mr Kevin Cleland who headed the Commission of Inquiry which recommended against this development.

Randwick Council have declared in a recent newsletter that they have a tick for their Beaches in the recent State of the Beaches report. But as usual there is no mention made of Botany Bay and the poor state of Frenchmans Bay Beach. The Report had this to say about Frenchmans:

Frenchmans Bay is approximately 500 metres long, with a rock wall towards the northern end. The swimming area is not netted. A small recreational reserve is located behind the southern end of the beach. The Beach Suitability Grade of Poor indicates that microbial water quality is influenced by faecal pollution, particularly after rainfall, from a number of potential sources of faecal contamination including stormwater. The response to rainfall graph indicates that enterococci levels increase slightly with increasing rainfall, sometimes exceeding the safe swimming limit after low levels of rainfall. The site has been monitored since 1994. NOTE THAT MALABAR rating is also Poor. (Below photograph of Frenchmans in early 20th century).



COMING EVENTS



Rockdale Bird Watcher's Breakfast

Saturday 12 January, 7am -9.30am. Meet in the Banksia Field car park directly opposite Spring Street on West Botany Street, Arncliffe. Bring: Hat, sunscreen, water bottle, binoculars and wear comfortable walking shoes. The walk will be led by bird expert, Andy Burton. A light breakfast will be served at the conclusion of the walk.

Rockdale Wetlands Tour

Sunday 13th January, 8am – 11am. Meet in Rockdale Council chambers car park, 25-28 York Street Rockdale at 7.45am. Bring: Hat, sunscreen, water bottle and wear comfortable walking shoes. This tour will be led by Dr. Arthur White. Not suitable for children under 8.

Bookings for either or both tours essential: Madeline Hourihan 95621663 or mhourihan@rockdale.nsw.gov.au