

SUSTAINABILITY SPEAKING

No 13 Summer 2013

Botany Bay Council recommends against Bunnings



Council cited 13 reasons, including:

(1) *The proposed development fails to satisfy the requirements of Clause 101(2)(b) of SEPP Infrastructure 2007, in that the proposed development will adversely affect the safety, efficiency and ongoing operation of the classified roads, namely Denison Street and Wentworth Avenue as a result of significant traffic generation and cumulative traffic impact (Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 Section 79C(1)(a)(i)).*

(13) *The proposed development is not in the public interest due to adverse environmental impacts on the natural and built environment in the locality, its incompatibility with surrounding land uses and that the subject site is adversely affected by levels of individual risk, societal risk and risk arising from dangerous good transportation, which is a matter of significant public interest. (Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 Section 79C(1)(e)).*

Other developments proposed in the area: British American Tobacco site; Orica Southlands site; Orica's subdivision;

Veolia's Waste Transfer Station. In addition there is the Government's Urban Activation Precinct proposal and Port Botany which will expand from approx. 2 million TEU p.a. to a minimum of 8 million TEU.

www.jrpp.nsw.gov.au/DevelopmentRegister/tabid/62/ctl/view/mid/424/JRPP_ID/942/language/en-AU/Default.aspx



Randwick Labor Councillors now back heavy rail



Tony Bowen: *We are at a critical fork in the road with light rail. I am concerned that Liberal and Green councillors' uncritical support for light rail risks it costing our residents the best outcome.*

When the Eastern Suburbs Rail was under construction in the 1970s it would, reportedly, have cost \$2million per mile to continue to Kingsford. The expansion of UNSW and future growth in the region justified the investment then. Now the case is even stronger for a line to Maroubra. The Light Rail proposal is an expensive

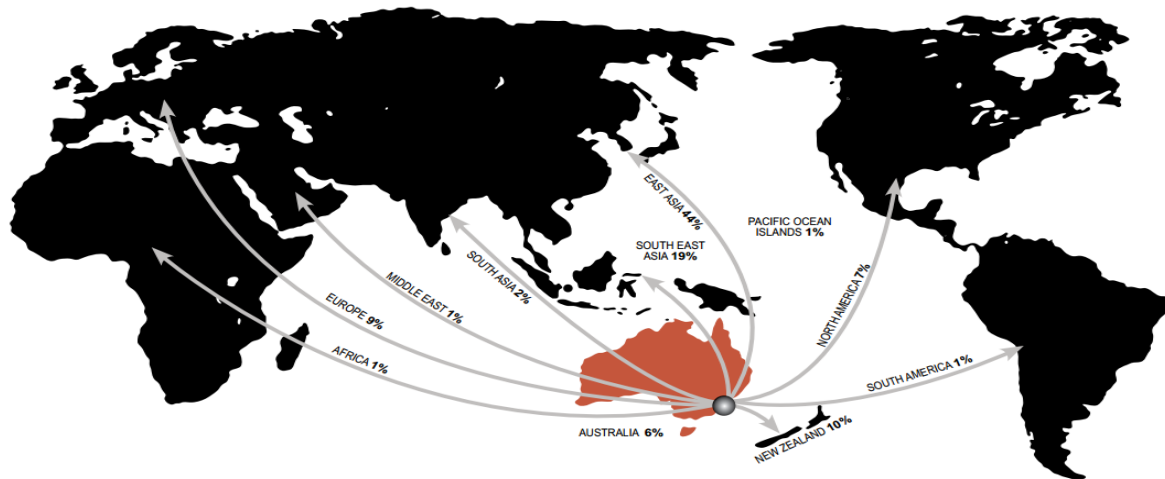
step backwards - see www.facebook.com/RandwickLightRail



The current La Perouse service connects Sydney Harbour (Circular Quay) directly to Botany Bay (La Perouse). However, when the Light Rail is operational commuters and tourists will need to travel via Central Station and then disembark at Kingsford and wait for a bus to reach destinations further south.

OUR GROWING NEIGHBOUR – NSW PORTS

FIGURE 3: SYDNEY PORTS TOTAL TRADE IN TEUS 2012/13



www.nswports.com.au/assets/Publications/FINAL-NSW-Ports-Trade-Report-2012-2013-Low-Res.pdf

Port Botany continues to grow under private ownership along with problems of noise and congestion. Melbourne has a noise forum. <http://portcapacity.portofmelbourne.com/pages/forum-noise.asp> Sydney is heading in that direction.

From the recently released NSW Freight and Ports Strategy:

The scale of the transport management task is formidable. In NSW, 67 billion tonne kilometres of freight is moved annually and the value of the products carried exceeds \$200 billion. Transport of freight is critical to the State economy and the efficiency of the transport network contributes to the success and growth of NSW as well as being significant to maintaining national defence interests and capability. Conversely, inefficiencies, friction and capacity constraints in the transport network add costs for manufacturers, producers and consumers. <http://freight.transport.nsw.gov.au/strategy/index.html>

However, it appears the left and right hand don't know what they are doing. Department of Planning is currently working through a Major Projects proposal, backed by the Southern Sydney Region of Councils, to site a waste transfer station in Beauchamp Road on Port SEPP land (zoned for port related activities). Access to rail would be required even though the rail freight targets are currently not being met. Read more about the development at www.veoliaes.com.au/community-and-environment/banksmeadow-transfer-terminal and majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=5855. Below is an extract from a request by Ports:

As you would be aware, the proposed facility is located within the Three Ports SEPP area in close proximity to Port Botany and adjacent to the freight rail line servicing the port stevedores. The location of the proposed facility is on a main arterial road used by port traffic. Beauchamp Road and Denison Street is one of only two major routes (with the other being Foreshore Rd) used by port traffic to access and egress the Port Botany precinct. These roads are currently subjected to a number of heavy vehicle movements and therefore it is required that traffic access through this area be maintained at all times due to the 24 hour nature of operations at the Port.

Potential traffic impacts generated by the proposed facility are of interest to Sydney Ports and as such, Sydney Ports requests that the Director-General require the Proponent to prepare a traffic impact assessment as part of the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed development taking into consideration the following matters:

- As a minimum assess the level of service impacts on the intersections of Denison Street and Beauchamp Road; Beauchamp Road and Perry St; and Beauchamp Road and Botany Road and consider intersection upgrade works to ensure the level of service is not compromised.
 - How right hand turns from Beauchamp Road into Perry Street and Macpherson Street will be managed.
 - The internal layout of the facility to ensure that there is adequate capacity for queuing of trucks and vehicles on site.
 - Undertake a cumulative assessment of known future traffic volumes within the industrial and port precinct area.
- Developments which have been granted approval but have not commenced operations as yet, which Sydney Ports is aware of, include the Bunnings development on Denison Street and the operation of the third terminal as part of the Port Botany Expansion project.

Summerama

Activities and photo competition. Take a photo between 15 December 2013 and 21 January 2014 that fits the Summerama 2014 Photo Comp theme of *What do you love about Sydney's coastline?* List of activities at www.summerama.com.au



Link Between Alzheimer's Disease and Lead Exposure



Infants exposed to lead from peeling paint and other sources may be more susceptible to Alzheimer's-like brain abnormalities as adults, according to a study in macaques spanning 23

years. Even in small doses, lead can wreak havoc on the heart, intestines, kidneys, and nervous system. Children are especially prone to its, as it curbs brain development. Many studies have linked early lead exposure with lower IQs. Researchers estimate that one in 38 children in the United States still have harmful levels of the metal in their systems, but evidence linking this exposure to dementia later in life has been tenuous. (<http://news.sciencemag.org>)



Ted Mack

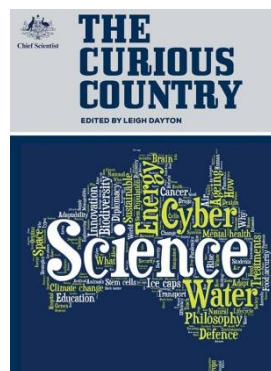
Ted Mack's Henry Parkes Oration: October 2013

I didn't have any burning desire to change the world – just a few simple principles like the workings of government should be open to public scrutiny. That elected representatives should enable people to not only participate in all decisions that affect them but ultimately find ways to have people make decisions for themselves. That the very basis of democracy is that a decision taken by the public as a whole will be right more often than decisions taken by an elite group no matter how wise that group. That people entrusted with the public purse should honour that trust and treat public money as they would want other people to treat their money. These ideas of course created an inevitable collision with the operations of political parties and most bureaucracies.

<http://www.parkesfoundation.org.au/HPoration2013.pdf>

Free e-book from Australia's Chief Scientist:

www.chiefscientist.gov.au



Public inquiry into funding of Public Infrastructure - submissions due 23 December, 2013

The Commission is to conduct a broad ranging investigation into costs, competitiveness and productivity in the provision of nationally significant economic infrastructure and examine ways to:

- address any barriers to private sector financing, including assessing the role and efficacy of alternative infrastructure funding and financing mechanisms, and to recommend mechanisms and operating principles to overcome such barriers
- reduce infrastructure construction costs.

Initial submissions due 23 December. Draft report due March 2104. Public Hearings April 2014. Final report May 2014. Details www.pc.gov.au/infrastructure



Emergency App.

The Emergency+ app uses the existing GPS functionality of smartphones to enable callers to provide emergency call-takers with their location information as determined by their smartphone.

When activated, the built-in accessibility features of a smartphone will describe aloud what appears on-screen, so a caller can use the app without seeing it. The Emergency + app is available free:



OR



Museum of Sydney 1st February 2013 FREE Chinese Market Garden Event



Take part in the planting of a Chinese-style market garden on the forecourt of the

Museum of Sydney. This event is part of the upcoming exhibition *Celestial city: Sydney's Chinese story* opening 29 March. Other events during Chinese New Year at <http://www.sydneychinesenewyear.com/>

Environmental Protection Authority(EPA)

The EPA's stakeholder survey has been published and is available at www.epa.nsw.gov.au/whoware/stakeholdersurvey.htm

A total of 445 stakeholders were invited to take part in the survey, and 130 responded. This provided an overall response rate of 29%. The response rate was highest among community and environment stakeholders; of community stakeholders approached, 41% took part in the survey. Response rates among industry (28%) and government (26%) stakeholders were lower. The sample sizes for industry and government were higher than for community and environment, however, as the EPA was able to provide longer stakeholders contact lists for those groups.

Table 4 summaries the stakeholder survey response rates.

Table 5: Response rates

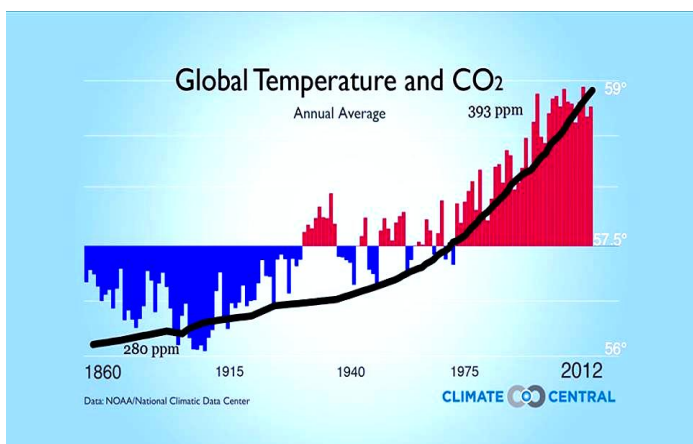
Stakeholder group (as defined by EPA)		Response rate		Final sample size
Community & Environment	Community groups*	49%	41%	22
	Environment groups	28%		
Industry	Industry	33%	28%	42
	Industry groups	24%		
Government	Local government	30%	26%	61
	NSW Government	20%		
	Inter-state EPAs	8%		
	Australian Government**	0%		
Overall response rate			29%	130***

* Including community consultative committees and advisory committees.

** Although no Australian Government organisation participated in the online survey, the Australian Government was represented in a depth interview.

*** Note that five participants identified as "Other" groups (see Figure 29).

This survey was skewed to receiving feedback from government and industry rather than community. The stakeholder list given to the independent researchers by the EPA had approx. 53 community/environmental, 150 industry and 234 from government.



www.smallplanet.org

COMPOST



"My whole life has been spent waiting for an epiphany, a manifestation of God's presence, the kind of transcendent, magical experience that let's you see your place in the big picture. And that is what I had with my first compost heap" Bette Midler 1966

More details on how Council can help:

http://www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/Looking_after_our_environment/Waste_and_recycling/Get_involved/Composting_and_worm_farming/index.aspx

and the EPA at



www.lovefoodhatewaste.nsw.gov.au

EPA Mercury Inquiry Update



The review is being coordinated by the EPA. Independent experts are assessing any potential off-site mercury impacts from what is now the Orica Botany site. CDM Smith, who have conducted the first stage of the review, have submitted their draft report. An open forum to discuss the finalised report and following stages of the review will be held in February. Over 4500 residents living within 1.25km of the former chlorine plant will be invited along with community members who have registered for updates. Further details are at:

www.epa.nsw.gov.au/botanymercuryreview

Lynda Newnam December 13, 2013