

SUSTAINABILITY SPEAKING

No 15 Winter 2014



The first issue of *Inside Gossip* containing *Environmentally Speaking* appeared in June 2004. Back then the hot topics were the expansion of Port Botany, the destruction of the Orica Hexachlorobenzene(HCB) stockpile at Banksmeadow and regulation of pollution. And the featured quote came from *An Illustrated Guide to Sydney 1882* (appearing in *Taken for Granted*, by Doug Benson & Jocelyn Howell).

“ Those who remember the road to Botany in years gone by are not surprised at the name given by the first discoverer(James Cook)... We know most of the wild flower regions of the colony, but none to compare in variety and richness with Botany, as it was.”

The Premiers who expanded and ‘sold’ Port Botany



2001 –proposed T3



2008 - turned first sod



2009-fired Ports Minister



2009 - Leased T3



2013 -‘Sold’ the lot

and exactly 6 years after the first sod was turned Premier Baird opens the T3 expansion on 24th July, 2014



When the Port was announced on the 29th November 2001 the Ports Minister Carl Scully stated that cargo volumes would more than double over the coming decade from one million to two million containers (expressed as TEU): *“If we don't make provision for extra space to move those larger number of containers, we will not be able to sustain economic growth and a growing population.”*

As we now know there was no capacity issue. The existing two terminals could have handled the projected growth, which in the development application was stated as 3.2million TEU.

The expansion was to facilitate much greater growth (from 8million+ TEU) as well as the entry of a new stevedore, Hutchison - the largest in the world. The key stakeholder in Hutchison is Sir Ka-shing Li, Asia's richest man with wealth estimated at over \$30billion.



On the 24th July 2008, Premier Morris lemma started the engines on the reclamation of 60 ha of Botany Bay and declared that: "This project will see Port Botany rise to the challenge and meet the increase in demand well into the next few decades." He was replaced as Premier by Nathan Rees in September.

(Photos: L-Sir Ka-shing Li; R-Morris lemma and Joe Tripodi; below – Kristina Keneally with Ports Minister Paul McLeay & Hutchison and Sydney Ports)



In December the following year Kristina Keneally replaced Nathan Rees as Premier. When signing the lease to T3 on the 18th December 2009, she stated: "As one of the most extensive and innovative port infrastructure projects undertaken anywhere in Australia over the last 30 years, T3 will underpin future job growth as well as export and import trade in and out of New South Wales and Australia. The NSW Government's appointment of HPH, the world's leading port operator, cements Port Botany's position as one of the most important container ports in the world."

On the 31st May, 2013 the 'sale' (99 year lease) of Port Botany was announced by Mike Baird, then Treasurer of NSW.

ORICA'S HEXACHLOROBENZENE(HCB) STOCKPILE

Banksmeadow NO!

Germany NICHT !!

Denmark NEJ!!!

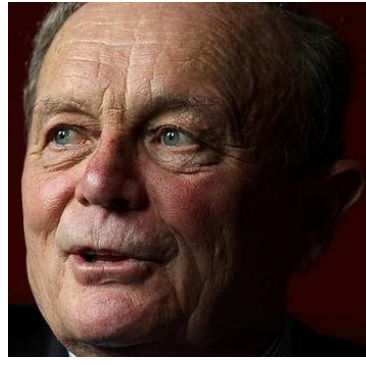
France NON!!!!



In 2002 a Commission of Inquiry recommended that the stockpile be destroyed at a plant to be built in Banksmeadow. The recommendation was rejected and in 2004 an Independent Review recommended that a site be found in a non-residential area in NSW. No site was found. In 2006 export to Germany was proposed and failed because of opposition from environmental groups there. The same happened with the proposed export to Denmark, in 2010. Now Orica intends to export to the Sèché Environnement Tredi plant in Salaise, France. Environment groups are getting ready for a major protest on 18th July to coincide with Stage 13 of Le Tour de France. The route for this Stage takes the riders, including the Orica GreenEdge and Bretagne Sèché Environnement teams, within a few kilometres of the Tredi plant.

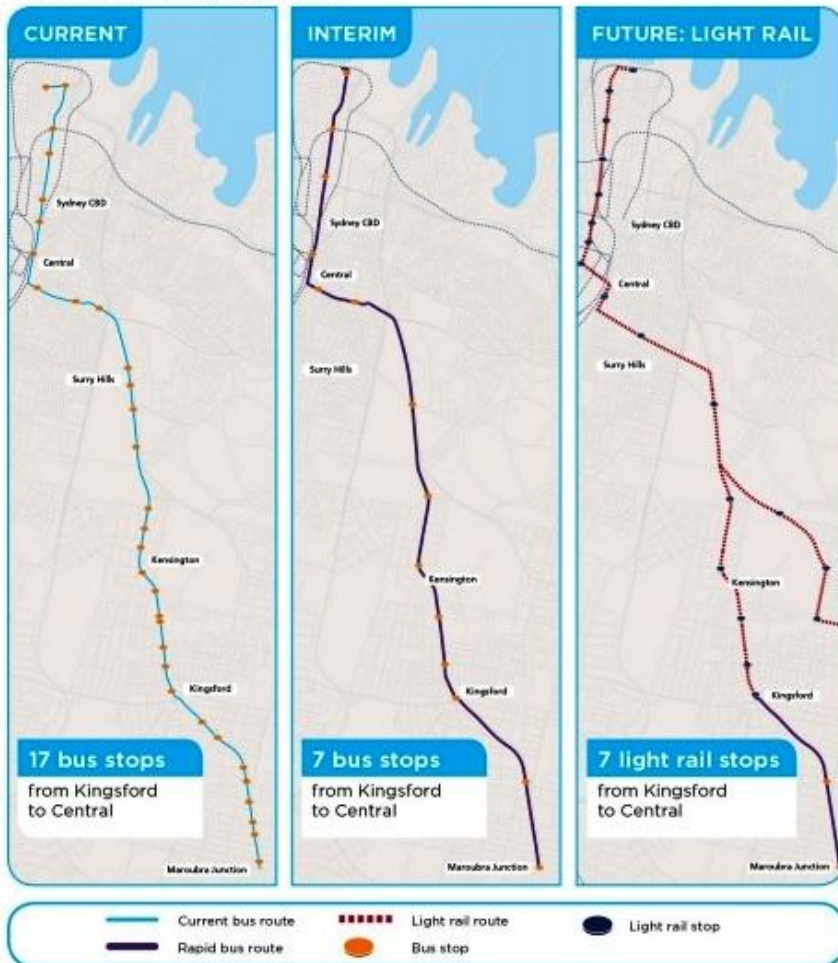
The Light Rail \$ Trail

On the 4th June, the day Planning Minister Pru Goward announced approval of the CBD-South-East Light Rail project the sale of one of the key stops on the Light Rail route was announced. The Entertainment Quarter was reportedly sold to John Singleton, Gerry Harvey and Mark Carnegie for \$80million with Harvey declaring the potential for redevelopment as “endless”.



And get ready for the new Transport for NSW ‘service’ – fewer seats, fewer stops, and exchange at Kingsford.

Figure 8 Maroubra Junction – Sydney CBD



Note: all the bus stops between Moore Park, Flinders St, Oxford St and Elizabeth St have been omitted from the maps provided by Transport for NSW.

There are doubts that the width of the 'island' platforms are enough to allow wheelchairs to pass going each way i.e. loading/unloading for a train into the City at the same time as a train coming from the city.

CSELR Project Update #5 has a new break-up for the CBD figures. Gone is the \$300m+ benefit for decreased congestion.

Now the figures claimed are:

- 10,000 jobs (no detail where)
- \$333m in benefits for pedestrians – (it is not stated but no doubt some won't need to buy gym memberships due to increase in walking distance to LR stops)
 - \$707m in 'operational savings' (no time frame mentioned)
 - \$308m in environmental and health benefits
 - \$222m in wider economic benefits
 - over \$2bn in benefits for public transport customers

More at www.randwicklightrail.com



Bikes Botany Bay

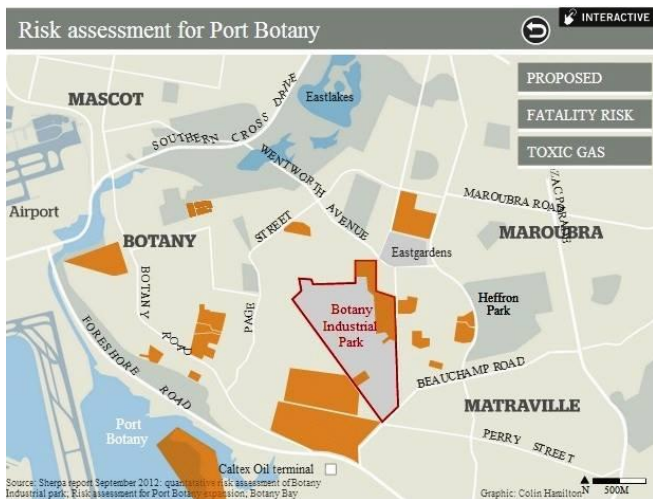
Next Meeting - Brasserie Bread, Banksmeadow 21st July 6pm
Details at www.bikesbotanybay.com

Blast from the Past

The first Zoo in Australia at Sir Joseph Banks Park exhibited the first elephant shipped to the mainland. She was named Jenny Lind and her story is recorded at <http://circuszoanimals.blogspot.com.au/2012/11/the-first-elephants-in-australasia.html>



Risk Assessment for Port Botany



Further details:
<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/contamination-concerns-grow-as-botany-bay-booms-20140620-zsfx9.html>

Upper House Inquiry into NSW EPA



Closing date for submissions 29 August 2014

Hearings in Parliament House 13th October and 24th November and 10th November in the Hunter Valley

Full details:
<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parliament/committee.nsf/0/743BDB8875807D85CA257CFC002142D1>

Auditor-General Report on EPA

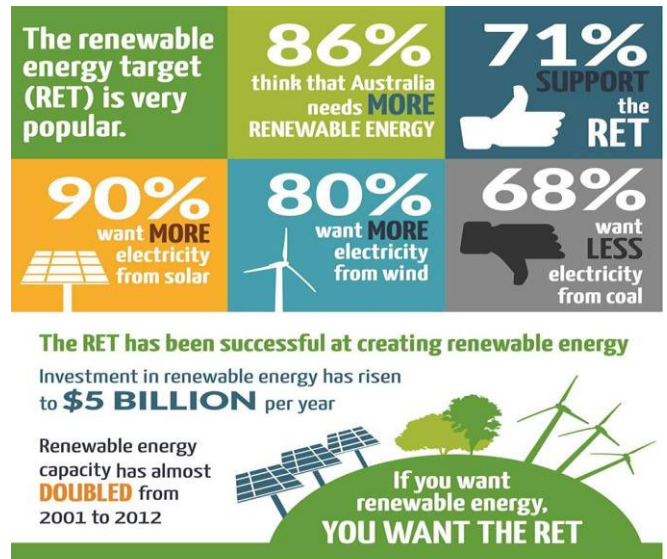
The report, released on 10th July, contains a number of recommendations including:

The EPA should implement a combined database to better monitor regulated sites and improve public reporting, and provide better guidance to staff on when to escalate regulatory activities;

By March 2015, the EPA should develop plans, guidelines and tools to ensure a more structured approach to communication with key stakeholders and the public during the assessment and remediation of sites (page 48);

Full Report:

<http://www.audit.nsw.gov.au/Publications/Performance-Audit-Reports/2014-Reports/Managing-Contaminated-Sites/Managing-Contaminated-Sites>



References:

The Australia Institute

Research that matters. July 2014

WANT TO KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL?



Are you fed up with litter in your local area? Or maybe you're part of a group who are already doing something to clean up your neighbourhood, but could do with some extra funds to help out? \$5000 grants are available. For more information, contact Kellie on 02 8594 4099 or communitylittergrants@knswb.org.au (Photo taken during the 1976 Keep Britain Tidy campaign. Keep Australia Beautiful started in 1968).