

**Minutes of the Port of Brisbane Corporation
Community Consultative Committee meeting**

**Held at the Visitors' Centre, Fisherman Islands
Wednesday, 19 November 2003**

Present:

Rick Morton (Chairman), Rosie Field (Acting Secretary), Peter Waterman (Convenor), Simon Baltais, Margo Canavan, John Dobson, Doreen Draheim, Dennis O'Neill, Mike Patchett, Barry Wilson, Sean Harrison, Anne Richardson, Brad Kitchen, Nikki Bennett (part meeting)

Apologies:

Paul Brooks, Wayne Cameron, Peter Hellen, Cheryl Heron, James Hunt, Sandy Spadota, Greg Spilsbury, David Ross, Nikki Wood

1. Introductions

Rick Morton welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the apologies. There were no new members to introduce.

2. Approval of minutes

Barry Wilson asked that the minutes be amended in relation to item 4 - Future Port Expansion project update, from "an authority on wheel squeal" to "a sufferer of wheel squeal".

3. Business arising

Rick Morton proposed that the Future Port Expansion project update be moved to the front of the agenda and advised that all business arising would be dealt with in the agenda items.

Dennis requested that we set dates for the 2004 year in advance.

4. Future Port Expansion (FPE) project update

Nikki Bennett gave an update on the FPE project.

Doreen asked that the Committee be kept informed of the shorebird and seagrass monitoring. Margo also expressed an interest in seeing the shorebird monitoring statistics.

Rick confirmed that the Corporation had set aside 12 hectares of land as a permanent roost site, and that the FPE Seawall Alliance team had done some preliminary work at the site.

Rick informed the Committee that the monitoring of shorebirds was undertaken in accordance with protocols agreed with the Commonwealth and State Environmental Departments, and that to monitor the impact of the seagrass in the FPE area there were a number of control sites at Cleveland and Manly (near Green Island). The monitoring was done quarterly, and visual and quantitative data was produced. The visual data was recorded on video.

Rick indicated that statistics could be made available, and he would include a presentation on the birds on the agenda for the next meeting.

Dennis asked if all the rock was being transported by rail.

Nikki said that all the rock for the seawall was transported by rail, but that a small proportion of the material used for upgrading the bund walls was transported by road.

Mike suggested that future FPE presentations could concentrate on the environmental issues such as sediment plumes, rather than the progress of construction works. No other Committee member expressed a view on this.

Barry asked if the internal bunds of the FPE reclamation area would be made of rock as he was concerned that the material dug out from the proposed under-river tunnel would be used to build the internal bund walls in the FPE area.

Rick informed the group that clean fill excavated from construction sites or dredged material was typically used, but at this stage, it was unknown what type of material would be used. Some consideration was being given to clean concrete waste (clean construction material).

ACTION: Data on the shorebird monitoring programmes to be included with November Community Consultative Committee minutes.

ACTION: Confirm at next meeting exactly what information the Committee would like presented on the FPE progress.

ACTION: All Committee members to be placed on the mailing list to receive future issues of the FPE newsletter.

ACTION: FPE newsletter to be put on the website.

5. Community Consultative Committee structure/process

Mike raised the issue of changing the structure of the Committee and asked whether Committee members could bring their views to

the next meeting. No other committee member volunteered an opinion at this stage.

ACTION: Committee members to bring their views on changing the structure of the Committee to the next meeting.

6. Status of Manly Boat Harbour Masterplanning

Rick addressed the questions he had on notice at the last meeting:

- a) What is the mandate that the Corporation works under for the financial arrangements relating to the Manly and other boat harbours?

Rick advised that the Corporation was a Government Owned Corporation (GOC) and had a mandate to operate on a commercial basis and therefore return a profit to its shareholding Ministers. The Corporation returns a 95% dividend to the government.

Mike indicated that this was not in the public interests, and indicated that he felt a review of the *GOC Act* was necessary.

Dennis asked whether it was necessary for the Corporation to make a profit overall or for each of its core business areas.

Rick advised that the Corporation should aim to make all operations profitable.

The remaining questions taken on notice in relation to Manly Boat Harbour were:

- b) Can the Committee see the briefs for future studies being undertaken in relation to the harbour?
- c) Can the community have an input into the scoping of the studies that will be undertaken in relation to the harbour?
- d) What will be the ongoing function of the reference group?

Rick indicated that he could not answer any of these questions at this as there were ongoing meetings with community groups and the local Member. The potential for future studies and the ongoing function of the reference group would depend on the outcome of this consultation.

John asked if this applied to all boat harbours.

Rick said that it did, restating that the Corporation had no intention at this stage to progress its master-planning for boat harbours under its management.

7. Update on Seagrass Watch activities

Simon gave an update on the Seagrass Watch programme, reporting that monitoring at the port would commence in November/December.

Lyngbya has been detected at Manly and Rose Bay as well as at Moreton and Peel Islands and Horseshoe Bay. Generally the seagrass beds were looking good, but there was some concern about the widespread patchiness of the seagrass in Moreton Bay.

Simon indicated that they didn't know why the seagrass beds were in this condition, as they didn't have enough data. With the lack of rain over the past few years, the group would be monitoring the results of the first flush after any prolonged rain.

Simon acknowledged the valuable financial contribution by the Corporation in relation to the seagrass monitoring programme, but indicated that resources were still stretched, with only one convenor and limited trained personnel to address the keen interest by the general public to get involved.

8. Status of mangroves at Whyte Island

Barry referred to an article in the newspaper in relation to a report conducted around 1997 by the South East Queensland University on the mangroves at Whyte Island, but said he had been unable to locate it.

John suggested that the Southern Cross University had done some studies, and the article could have referred to one of these.

Rick said that the rubbish tip and sewage treatment plant were two sources of concern for the mangroves in this area.

ACTION: Barry to locate the newspaper article.

9. Coastal buffer zone and habitat compensation: Corporation's long and medium term plans

Mike enquired about the Corporation's approach to a coastal buffer zone and habitat compensation.

Rick responded that the Corporation did not believe it could achieve a No Net Loss policy. However, it supported a range of community and sponsorship activities including:

- *Riverclean*
- the Bulimba Creek Oxbow Rehabilitation's programme where over 1,000 mangroves and more than 3,000 m² of salt couch had been transplanted, and \$10,000 of in-kind support

- \$110,000 donated to the Healthy Waterways/Moreton Bay and Waterways Partnership programme, which focussed on improving catchment management and water quality to maintain the condition of Moreton Bay
- the Whyte Island project, where a buffer area was continuing to be developed and maintained

Doreen asked whether the Whyte Island revegetation programme would connect up to the Bayside Parklands. Brad said that eventually it would, but it was a long-term project.

Margo said that the northside should be treated in the same way and that buffers there needed to be retained, including historical buffers, like that of Shirleys (Pinkenba) wharf where the first soldiers went to war.

Margo asked if the Corporation had a plan from a cultural viewpoint. Brad said that our Land Use Strategy documented designated areas of ecological significance.

Mike asked if there was a habitat compensation policy for loss of seagrass, rather than community support programmes and asked if the Corporation could contribute more money to the Seagrass Watch programme (under item 7).

Rick stated that the Corporation had donated \$10,000 to the programme six months ago and that the Corporation would consider continued support.

10. Scarborough Boat Harbour dredging

Brad gave an update on the progress of the new dredging technique that the Corporation is using to dredge the Scarborough Boat Harbour (presentation attached).

Brad reported that the material in the harbour was very fine, and the technique was not working well with such very fine silts, as the material would not settle very quickly. To assist in settling the material, a flocculant had been added to the bags, which minimised, but did not overcome, the problem.

The area dredged was tested for its containment status before dredging commenced, and the particle size of the material is currently being analysed.

Mike asked whether the bags were reusable. Brad advised that the geotextile may be able to be used again, but not the bags themselves, as they were cut open.

Mike asked if the material in the Manly Harbour was any coarser than that at the Scarborough Boat Harbour. Brad said in some places where the water flow was greater, sediments were sandier,

but fine particles were transported with the tide to the inner areas of the harbour.

Simon asked about the quality of the water from the tubes. Brad said it was of acceptable quality to be returned to the boat harbour.

11. Perrin Creek flood study

Rick advised that a draft report had been prepared to gain an appreciation of the opportunities/constraints to works within the 1 to 100 year flood line.

Barry enquired when the flood mitigation works in Perrin Creek were to be completed. Rick said that the Corporation, which had management control for lower reaches of Perrin Creek, had no plans for any works in this area at present. Brisbane City Council has management control for areas upstream of Lytton Road, but had not contacted the Corporation in this regard.

12. Regional changes to sediment/current flows due to port works

Doreen said that BEN was concerned at the changes to sediment and currency flows in the Wynnum and Manly area, and believed that the silt in the area was increasing.

Rick gave a presentation on the hydrodynamic studies undertaken by WBM and the EPA for the Impact Assessment Study for the FPE. Both organisations developed hydrodynamic models independently, which had the same outcomes.

The studies indicated that any impact would be restricted to the local area (ie. within a few hundred metres of the port) and that changes to the design of the FPE (ie. rounding the southern wall) had lessened any potential for local scouring.

Rick also indicated that the FPE runs parallel to the currents, while the nature of a typical groyne is that it runs perpendicular to the currents. Rick also explained the considerable differences between sediment movement on open ocean beaches and within Moreton Bay.

ACTION: Rick Morton to provide a copy of the PowerPoint presentation (attached).

13. Sand extraction and dredge material placement in Moreton Bay

Simon Baltais asked for a status report on the sand extraction study, and also asked where dredged material was placed now and would be placed in the future.

Rick said that the study, which had taken about 2 ½ years to complete, should be finished by the end of this year. After that there would be two to three months of public consultation and then the report would go to Cabinet, possibly in March 2004.

Rick informed the Committee that because of a variety of factors such as environmental effects to groundwater, traffic and urban creep, that land-based sources of sand in Brisbane would be exhausted by 2007.

Mike asked about the use of manufactured sand.

Rick indicated that manufactured sand was not appropriate for concreting due to the limited size of particles available and there were some negative environmental by-products (slimes).

John informed the Committee that there had been no community or indigenous representative on the Sand Extraction Study Steering Committee.

Rick said that this was a technical study and membership was on a financial basis. Members of the community could have input through the proposed public consultation phase.

Rick advised that the placement of dredged material was an issue for all ports. He further advised that the Corporation had only one site (Clunies Flats) where material could be placed to dry before being transported to an as yet undetermined final relocation site and that the opportunities and constraints associated with the use of the Clunies Flats site were still being investigated. Rick said to take the material outside the bay would be very expensive.

Rick said that the Corporation could place maintenance dredging material in the FPE for the next 20 years, and was working with State Government agencies and the University of Queensland to identify options for when the FPE was filled to capacity.

Mike asked whether the geotextile bag dredging technique could be used.

Brad said that using the tubes was very expensive for a large dredging project eg. it cost \$10,000 a tube for 1,000m³ of dredged material.

Rick said that in Southern USA (eg. Florida, Mississippi), which had similar weather conditions to ours, they have created Confined

Disposal Facilities with dredged material, which had created land and roost sites with considerable habitat value.

14. Other business

Rick asked Committee members about the feedback on the Corporation had requested on its Triple Bottom Line Report. (All members of the Community Consultative Committee had been sent a copy of last year's Triple Bottom Line Report and requested to bring comments to the meeting.)

No members provided comment at the meeting although Mike and John indicated they would in the near future.

Dennis asked whether the Corporation had any plans for residential or community facilities on port land.

Rick said there were no such plans.

ACTION: Committee members to provide the Corporation with feedback on its triple bottom line reporting.

15. Meetings for 2004

Based on the Committee's Standing Operating Procedures, the Corporation has set the following dates for 2004 meetings:

11 February
12 May
18 August
10 November

The next meeting will be held at the Port of Brisbane Visitors' Centre at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 11 February 2004. Refreshments will be served from 6.00pm.