

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

**Held at the Visitors' Centre, Fisherman Islands  
Wednesday, 9 February 2005**

**Present:**

Rick Morton (Chairman), Nikki Wood (Secretary), Peter Waterman (Convenor), Michael Healey (AMCS), Jill Greenhill (Bayside Environmental Network), Bill Benham (Rotary Club of Port of Brisbane), Simon Baltais (Wildlife Preservation Society), Rowan Bullock (Port business community), Dennis O'Neill (North Point Residents), Debbie Davis (Hemmant community), Barry Wilson (Rivermouth Action Group), Michael Leistner (Wynnum Village Chamber of Commerce), David Farley (Manly Chamber of Commerce), Rosie Field (PBC), Brad Kitchen (PBC), Wayne Young (PBC), Michael Moore (PBC)

Observers:

Rob McMichael (North Point Residents), Doreen Draheim (Bayside Environmental Network), Allan Nutley (Wynnum Manly Regional Development Partnership), Gerry Johnstone (PBC), Peter Keyte (PBC)

Apologies:

Margo Canavan (Pinkenba Community Association Inc.), Pam Pavey (Manly Chamber of Commerce), Peter Hellen (Wynnum Manly Regional Development Partnership)

**1. Introductions**

Rick welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the apologies.

**2. Approval of minutes**

The Committee members confirmed the minutes from the last meeting held on 10 November 2004 as a true record of that meeting.

**3. Business arising from minutes**

- Removal of pepper trees along Pritchard Street: Brad informed the Committee that two of the chemicals that the Corporation had trialled to eradicate the trees had worked well and that it would start a tree-poisoning programme in the next couple of weeks. Brad said that pepper trees, a declared Category 3 weed, were an ongoing problem, but the Corporation had

successfully cleared a hectare at Whyte Island and was looking at a strategy to control the weed.

- Beautification of Pinkenba area around temporary cruise terminal: Rick advised that he had contacted Queensland Tourism they had no plans for any beautification given that the use of the Pinkenba wharf as a cruise terminal was only temporary. He said that there may be opportunities for the Corporation to work with the Brisbane City Council to do some street tree planting.
- Waste-transfer facility in Farrer Street: Brad advised that the company operating the waste-transfer facility was leasing the land from QR and said he would provide the contact details to Margo.

**ACTION:** Brad to provide Margo with the contact details for the company operating the waste-transfer facility in Farrer Street.

- Rotary Centenary tree planting: Brad advised that the Rotary Club of the Port of Brisbane will plant 100 eucalyptus trees as part of the revegetation works at the Wynnum quarry site. The planting, which will take place at 3.30pm on 23 February, will commemorate the 100-year international anniversary of the founding of Rotary.

Rotary will supply the trees, and the Corporation will dig the holes and provide the mulch. Brad asked for support from BEN to do some work on the adjacent parkland as part of the Bayside Parklands.

Dennis asked for a mud map of the site.

**ACTION:** Brad to provide Dennis with a mud map of the site.

- William Gunn Jetty: Michael presented a simulated computer impression of the marina and jetty, and photos of the construction progress. He estimated that the vessels would occupy the marina by the beginning of March, with the kiosk completed towards the end of March.

Doreen reported that the East Brisbane Foreshore Development Reference Group was concerned about the lack of consultation over the redevelopment of the jetty and wanted the jetty to "fit" with the rest of the foreshore development. Doreen indicated that there was considerable community ill feeling towards the Corporation.

Doreen enquired about the ownership status of land adjacent to Manly Boat Harbour and apparent confusion within Brisbane City Council. Michael advised that the land in question was the Corporation's management responsibility.

**ACTION:** Michael to contact Brisbane City Council representatives to advise of land ownership adjacent to the boat harbour.

#### **4. Future Port Expansion update**

Wayne gave a presentation on the progress of the construction of the internal seawalls and the bird roost site.

#### **5. New P&O crane**

Rowan informed the Committee that P&O would take delivery of Australia's first post-Panamax crane on 17 February, and expected another crane next year. (A post-Panamax ship is one that - at over 32.2 metres wide - is too wide to use the Panama Canal.)

Rowan advised that P&O was investing \$16.5 million this year, and Patrick had invested \$100 on berths 8 and 9, and was running automated straddle carriers at wharf 7. In the last three months P&O had employed 100 people. These were all positive signs of growth at the port.

Gerry highlighted that despite the recent comments in the media that there was a lack of investment in port infrastructure, this was not the case in Brisbane. Trade was increasing rapidly, and it was a matter of keeping infrastructure ahead of demand.

Rob asked if there were any plans for stage 2 of the Port of Brisbane Motorway. Rick responded that we were talking to the Federal Government to fast track the project. All studies had been completed and the corridor identified, but funding was still required.

#### **6. Sand Extraction Study update**

Rick advised that there had been no announcement to date.

#### **7. Access to the port – future channels through Moreton Bay**

Rick presented on the current shipping channel into the port, which follows the deep water and therefore is not straight. With ships increasing in size, particularly oil tankers from West Africa, there are safety and environmental reasons for straightening the channel.

Rick highlighted the channel's two problem areas - Hamilton Patches (located at the Caloundra end of the channel) and Spitfire Channel (located about half way down the channel at the entrance to Moreton Bay).

There are significant cost and environmental issues associated with the need to remove coffee rock at Hamilton Patches, but the Corporation is looking at straightening the Spitfire Channel, which only involves clean sand. The Corporation would use the sand on land in its reclamation process.

The region generates approximately 1 million m<sup>3</sup> of maintenance dredging material each year from the river/bay navigation channels, canals and marinas. While most of this material is currently placed within the Future Port Expansion, this is not a viable long-term option as the reclamation area will be full in approximately 15 years. The Corporation is, therefore, involved in a number of research projects examining alternative placement locations and reuse options (eg. brick manufacture).

#### **9. Disturbance of wader birds at Manly Boat Harbour**

Simon raised his concern that people walking their dogs and fishermen are disturbing the wader birds at the Manly roost site.

Rick reported that this was an ongoing issue, and that our signs and fences are consistently ignored. We will be replacing the fence soon and conducting more security patrols in the area. However, the security officers have no power to fine or detain anyone.

David Farley indicated that there remained expectations that this was a fishing area.

Rick asked the Committee for their assistance in keeping the area secure for the birds, and informed everyone that we were currently working with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to have the area declared a "conservation reserve".

#### **10. Greening Brisbane Naturally – Tree Planting at Hemmant**

Nikki reported that we had met a representative of Greening Brisbane Naturally (an initiative of the Brisbane City Council) and that several tree plantings would be held in Hemmant in the next few months.

Debbie invited the Committee to be part of the Council's Greening Hemmant project and plant trees in five suburban streets. The project was being promoted as a family day through the school.

#### **11. Bay Visioning Group update**

Doreen advised that some of the community (through the East Brisbane Foreshore Development Reference Group) wanted an environmental resource centre included in the plans for the foreshore.

She advised that a concept plan would be published on 5 March.

## 12. Other business

Two recent newspaper articles about contaminants in the Brisbane River were raised.

Rick explained that every year, before we commence our maintenance-dredging programme, we test a number of sites in the river for contaminants to ensure that we dispose of the dredged material appropriately.

Last year we advised the authorities that the level of pesticides was continuing to rise. At the current levels we can only dispose of the material on land. However, to reuse the dredged material, for example to make bricks, we require uncontaminated material.

Rob said he had contacted the QR representative about wheel squeal, and that the representative had visited his home and reported that the track near his home was dry. The track had been lubricated three to four weeks ago, and there was some improvement, except for the rock train.

Doreen said that the NSW trains were very noisy, and that some drivers were better than others, particularly around bends.

Dennis reported that he had heard no more from Energex. Rick said that the Corporation had also not heard anything, but that the new line was very important to the efficient operation of the port.

Dennis also reported that the Caltex refinery had let off a loud bang on the previous Sunday, and had written to apologise and explain they had been installing some new equipment and that it would not happen again.

Dennis congratulated the Corporation on the annual report, *Port Tidings* and *Portrait*, and asked for extra copies of the newsletter to distribute to the local area.

**ACTION:** Rosie to supply Dennis with copies of *Portrait*.

Brad explained the impact that the invasion of exotic bees would have on our domestic industry. He also explained that AQIS, Customs and the stevedores worked together to ensure that pests did not enter Australia.

## 13. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 11 May 2005 at 6.00pm for 6.30pm at the Port of Brisbane Visitors' Centre.