

Minutes of the Port of Brisbane Corporation Community Consultative Committee meeting

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

Present:

Rick Morton (Chairman) Nikki Wood (Secretary), Peter Waterman (Convenor), Jill Greenhill (Bayside Environmental Network), Debbie Davis (Hemmant community), Bill Benham (Rotary Club of Port of Brisbane), Simon Baltais (Wildlife Preservation Society), Rowan Bullock (Port business community), Dennis O'Neill (North Point Residents), Margo Canavan (Pinkenba Community Association Inc), Barry Wilson (The Rivermouth Action Group Inc), Pamela Pavey (Manly Chamber of Commerce), Brad Kitchen (PBC), Bill Morley (PBC), Bill Tranberg (PBC), Rosie Field (PBC)

Observers:

Doreen Draheim (Bayside Parklands Advisory Committee), Rob Elwell (Manly Chamber of Commerce), Rob McMichael (North Point Residents Group), Alix Baltais (Wildlife Preservation Society), Leila Ammerman (Pinkenba Community Association Inc), Jeff Coleman (PBC); Anne Richardson (PBC), Laura Jarman (PBC)

Apologies:

John Dobson (Moreton Bay Environmental Alliance), Michael Leistner (Wynnum Chamber of Commerce), Michael Healey (Wynnum Manly Regional Development Partnership)

1. Introductions

Rick welcomed the members, observers and guests to the meeting, including guest speaker, Dr Thorsten Mosisch, and acknowledged the apologies.

2. Approval of minutes

The Committee members confirmed the minutes from the last meeting held on 10 August 2005 as a true record of that meeting.

3. Healthy Waterways Report Card

Dr Thorsten Mosisch provided an overview of the Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program and the annual report card on the estuarine, and freshwater waterways and catchment areas in the South East Queensland area.

He reported that, since 1999 when the programme started, the number monitoring sites had increased to 374. These sites are monitored monthly, with the annual report card results presented every year with an A to F rating.

Dr Mosisch presented the ratings for a number of bay areas and explained the elements that resulted in the rating.

The 2003-04 Report Card was provided, along with a number of brochures. This year's report card will be published in about two months' time.

Doreen asked what the "sludge" along the foreshore at Wynnum might be. Simon suggested that Doreen report it to the EPA.

4. Business arising from minutes

- E-mails for alternates had been added to the list.
- Most trade through the Port of Brisbane originates in/is destined for Queensland.
- The Spitfire Sand Extraction Project presentation has been uploaded to the website.

5. Marina pump-out facilities

Bill Morley discussed the changes to the transport regulations that require small craft to either treat sewerage on board the vessel or bring it back to marinas for treatment and appropriate disposal.

He advised that the marina operators in the boat harbours had responded positively to the Corporation's offer of assistance towards the cost of purchasing a sewerage pump-out unit.

Currently, sewerage is removed from a vessel by a sucker truck, or smaller vessels have porta potties and larger vessels install treatment plants onboard.

6. Port facilities update

Bill Tranberg presented on the current and future infrastructure projects at the port, necessary to keep pace the increase in trade through the port over the past five years.

He outlined the engineering and environmental management devices used in the construction of Wharf 9, which was recently completed, and presented on the upcoming projects, including Wharf 10, the extension to the grain wharf, the preparation of the land for the industrial estate Port Gate, and the first of the buildings (an office and child development centre) to be designed and constructed in the port's town centre, Port Central.

7. Stevedore's update

Rowan reported that Patrick's autostrads (automated straddle carriers) were in full operation at the new terminal at wharves 7, 8 and 9, and that the crane intensity of the terminal had increased as Patrick's customers were moving from wharves 1, 2 and 3 to the new terminal.

He reported that Patrick's crane would move from the old operation to the new autostrad terminal in mid-January 2006, and that they would hand over the operation at wharves 1, 2 and 3 to AAT by the end of this year.

Rowan said that productivity at P&O Ports container terminal was increasing and that the company's investment would increase over the next year with two new cranes due to arrive in the first quarter of 2007. These cranes would be capable of lifting two, fully-loaded containers.

There had been cargo delays over the past month, after the introduction of Customs' new computer programme in October, but delays were lessening with a couple of upgrades introduced to the system.

Rowan said that the Maritime Security Identification Card (MSIC) was to be introduced into the maritime industry over the next 12 months. The photo identity card would allow access to maritime security zones. The cards would be issued by the Corporation and the Patrick/P&O Ports company, OneStop.

Safety at work and at home was a huge priority for P&O Ports and now safety glasses and high-visibility vests were mandatory. P&O Ports issues its staff with six pairs of safety glasses – three for work and three to take home.

8. Spitfire Sand Extraction Project update

Nikki informed the Committee that the 30-working-day public notice period for the Spitfire Sand Extraction Project had started on 7 November.

An independent, third-party consultant, Libby Paholski, had been employed to undertake the consultation, and meetings with those people who had expressed an interest in the project had been organised.

Nikki advised that anyone who wanted to make a submission must do so in writing to the EPA and handed out an information sheet with the relevant details. She said that the all the information regarding the project, including the Corporation's application, was now on the Corporation's website.

9. Dredged Material Disposal

Rick reported that the study had not yet been finalised. Simon indicated that he was happy to wait until the report was published to discuss the issue.

10. Future development north of the river

Rick presented on the Boral manufacturing plasterboard development at Pinkenba, between Pamela and Tingira Streets.

The development will increase trade through the port and create jobs. As the assessment manager, the Corporation will review the application. Dust will be one of the biggest considerations, and, as part of the assessment process, external agencies, including the EPA, will be involved.

Barry asked about the dust emissions, and Rob Elwell advised that all such developments today required dust-monitoring controls.

Margo asked if Boral would be using Cement Australia's wharf as dust was currently a major issue with the products handled at the wharf and whether the development would affect the boat ramp.

Rick said that Boral may be using the Cement Australia wharf, and that the boat ramp would not be affected as the lease area was on the other side of Pamela Street.

Dennis asked whether there were any other methods to load gypsum.

Gypsum is currently loaded/unloaded by a grab crane and placed into the trucks. An alternative unloading system (manufactured by Sivertell) that encloses the operation and minimises the dust is currently being investigated.

11. Bayside Creeks Catchment Group

Doreen presented on the launch of Wynnum-Lota and Lower Tingalpa Creeks Catchment Group on World Wetland Day on Saturday 4 February 2006.

The aim of the group was to gain community support to form a catchment committee and to educate the community on the importance of protecting the significant catchment area of Wynnum, Lota and Lower Tingalpa Creeks.

The group is looking for members, financial support for a catchment coordinator (wages, vehicle and office space), funding for the launch, and funding for a study of the Lota Creek catchment.

Doreen handed out a leaflet with information on the launch next year, and invited everyone to become involved and attend the launch.

The group has a website: www.baysidecreeks.org.au

12. General business

Port security status

Margo asked how the Pinkenba community would know if the port security status changed.

Nikki said that the Pinkenba Community Association Inc was listed in our Crisis Management Plan and that, in the event of a crisis, the association would be alerted.

Margo said that ships' crews were often seen in the Pinkenba area, and at times were a concern.

Rowan said that all ships' crew were risk assessed under the ship's Security Plan.

Shorebird Management Group

Brad informed the Committee that a Shorebird Management Group – including the EPA, Marine Parks, Manly Marinas Inc and the Queensland Wader Study Group – has been established to manage the roost areas at Manly and the port. The group will meet twice yearly.

The Manly Boat Harbour roost will remain a conservation area, while the Port of Brisbane Shorebird Roost will be open to the public.

Bill asked about access to the Port of Brisbane Shorebird Roost.

Brad said that bookings could be made by contacting the Visitors Centre. The Centre will have information on the best times to visit the roost and will provide binoculars and brochures to visitors after they have left a security deposit. Numbers to the roost will be controlled, but group visits will be possible.

Pamela said that the roost at Manly is regularly inspected and that there it was planned to formalise a management plan to manage the area.

Minutes

Jill asked if the minutes could be sent out earlier than last time, and Barry suggested that attaching large presentations may crash some people's computers if they didn't have Broadband.

Port Tours

Rick enquired whether Committee members would like a port tour early next year and suggested that people respond when the minutes were sent out.

13. Next meeting

The meetings for 2006 were scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month as follows:

8 February 2006
10 May 2006
9 August 2006
8 November 2006

The meetings will be held at 6.00pm for 6.30pm at the Port of Brisbane Visitors Centre.