

Minutes of the Port of Brisbane Corporation Community Consultative Committee meeting

**Held at the Visitors Centre, Port of Brisbane
Wednesday, 2 August 2006**

Present:

Rick Morton (Chairman), Nikki Wood (Secretary), Peter Waterman (Convenor), Jill Greenhill (Bayside Creeks Catchment Group), Sandra McLeod (Hemmant community), Pamela Pavey (Manly Chamber of Commerce), John Dobson (Moreton Bay Environmental Alliance), Dennis O'Neill (North Point Residents), Bill Benham (Rotary Club of Port of Brisbane), Barry Wilson (The Rivermouth Action Group Inc), Simon Baltais (Wildlife Preservation Society), Jim Hermans (Wynnum Districts Chamber of Commerce), Kay Riggall (Wynnum Manly Regional Development Partnership), Brad Kitchen (PBC), Bill Morley (PBC), Jason Sprott (PBC), Rosie Field (PBC)

Observers:

Doreen Draheim (Bayside Creeks Catchment Group), Laura Jarman (PBC), Kelly Stacey (PBC)

Apologies:

Margo Canavan (Pinkenba Community Association Inc), Mark Hulme (P&OPorts)

1. Australian Customs Container Examination Facility (CEF)

Greg Macpherson, Team Leader, CEF Brisbane, gave a very informative presentation on the operation of the facility, which now X-rays 14% of the port's total container throughput.

Greg described how the facility X-rays up to 100 containers a day, as well as the process involved in unpacking containers for examination.

2. Introduction of new members and observers

Rick welcomed new member, Sandra McLeod as the representative of the Hemmant community, and introduced the Corporation's new Manager Boat Harbours, Bill Morley.

3. **Approval of minutes**

The Committee approved the minutes of 10 May 2006 as being a true record of that meeting.

4. **Business arising**

Pinkenba memorial

The Corporation is continuing to investigate an appropriate memorial to commemorate the historical significance of the Pinkenba wharf and surrounding area, from where, from as early as the Boer War, Australian soldiers embarked to fight overseas.

Moreton Bay Seafood Industry Association Environmental Management System (EMS)

The Corporation has supplied funding for the next three years to the Moreton Bay Seafood Industry Association to assist the association to implement its EMS.

Procedures in place during nuclear ship calls

A representative from the SES will be invited to the next meeting to present on the emergency procedures in place during visits by nuclear vessels.

ACTION: Rick to invite SES representative to the meeting in November.

5. **Stevedores' update**

There was no stevedores' update, as Cameron Thorpe was an apology for the meeting. Cameron replaces Rowan Bullock from P&O Ports, who has been posted overseas.

6. **Port of Brisbane Corporation Land Use Plan Review**

The Corporation's Manager Strategy and Planning, Jason Spratt, presented an overview of how stakeholders can participate in the review of the Land Use Plan. It is anticipated that the revised plan will be completed by mid-2007.

The designation of the majority of the land covered by the plan will remain largely unchanged. However, there will be changes at Hamilton, Port Gate, and Port West, and this plan will also include the boat harbours at Manly, Scarborough, Cabbage Tree Creek and the moorings at Gardens Point.

The Corporation is currently producing a Statement of Proposals (SOP) for public consultation. The SOP is a document that identifies planning issues and solutions. The community and other

stakeholders can comment on the SOP by lodging a written submission with the Corporation. The commencement of consultation will be advertised in the newspapers.

The input will be used in the development of the draft Land Use Plan, which will be available for public consultation next year.

As part of the communication activities, there will be a Project Information Session at the Visitors Centre on 17 August, to which Committee members will be invited, and "Talk to the Planner" sessions at the Visitors Centre on 16 September and 15 October.

Dennis asked if there would be any areas where Brisbane City Council would need to approve development on port land. Jason explained that the Corporation is the Assessment Manager for port land, but that the Corporation sends development applications to the Council and other agencies on an informal basis for comment.

7. Dredge Material Reuse Study and sand extraction progress update

Rick advised the Committee that the Dredge Material Reuse Study had been finished, but that the Corporation couldn't comment on the findings until the appropriate Minister had released them.

John asked if the Corporation was happy with the result. Rick indicated that the Corporation was pleased with some of the findings, but not others.

Rick advised that we had received the Corporation had received its approvals to extract sand from the Spitfire Channel. A contract dredger, the *Volvox Asia*, would begin work in the channel in about three weeks to extract 1.65 million m³ of sand that would be placed in the port's reclamation area to meet the current pressing demand for land.

The dredger would work for about 12 weeks, and make three trips a day between the Spitfire Channel and the future reclamation area.

Simon asked if the larger dredger would have a greater impact than the *Brisbane*. Brad advised that the *Volvox Asia* was a similar dredger to the *Brisbane*, with similar control mechanisms, including turtle deflectors. In addition, under the EPA approvals, any vessel that extracted sand needed to submit an Environmental Management Plan to the EPA and Marine Parks.

Barry asked if the water-overflow techniques on the *Volvox Asia* were similar to those of the *Brisbane*. Brad indicated that turbidity would be low, as sand was being dredged and not silts, and that the Corporation would also be conducting regular monitoring for turbidity throughout the project.

Barry asked about sampling cores and the potential to discover artifacts of cultural-heritage value. Rick advised that, for geotechnical reasons, the Corporation had taken sampling cores to 16m (below the proposed depth of dredging). However, the former land was 20m below the surface of the water, and so there was no potential for cultural-heritage issues.

John asked if the EPA-approved EMP was the only condition. Rick advised that this was correct, as the impacts associated with sand extraction from the Spitfire Channel had been assessed in the Moreton Bay Sand Extraction Study.

John asked if the Corporation would be extending our reclamation activities in the future. Rick said that there were no current plans for further extensions to the Future Port Expansion area.

8. Water Sensitive Urban Design

Brad gave a presentation on how the Corporation was incorporating Water Sensitive Urban Design into the port's new developments and operations.

The Corporation's focus is on stormwater and reuse of water. For example, the Corporation now uses salt water on construction sites for dust control, as well as substituting conventional methods (curbing) with grassed swales (Water Sensitive Urban Design), to treat stormwater run-off from operating premises.

9. Feral weeds and animal control

Simon said that Redlands Shire was having difficulty controlling foxes and asked what animal control measures were in place at the port.

Brad informed the Committee that about four years ago the Corporation had a fox and cat problem. However, through professional culling of the foxes and trapping of the cats, approved by the RSPCA and the Department of Natural Resources, most foxes had been exterminated. Cats remain a problem as people continue to "dump" unwanted pets at the port.

The foxes went to the University of Queensland for research and the cats were euthanased by the RSPCA.

The Corporation's weed-control programme involves botanists examining stormwater drains twice a year. They compile a report, which is submitted to AQIS.

Simon asked if marine pests studies were continuing. Rick indicated that this was a Federal Government issue, and progress was very slow. Three years ago a survey indicated that Brisbane was free from marine pests.

Dennis asked whether the port had a rat or mice problem. Brad advised that each operator had a rodent programme in place, so it was not an issue.

10. Progress of the Bayside Creeks Catchment Group

Doreen gave an update on the Bayside Creek Catchments Group. The group is currently looking to recruit a catchments coordinator, with \$52,000 having been provided by the Brisbane City Council for the position. As this funding won't cover all costs, the group is also applying for an extra \$1,000 for administration costs.

A planning session had been held that identified a number of restoration projects, and a bus tour for the public of the Lota and Tingalpa Creeks had been organised.

11. Other business

Public access

With the amount of port development currently being undertaken, Barry asked about public access to the river at Port West. Rick advised that the Corporation would note Barry's comments, and advised that the Corporation had enhanced access at the public boat ramp and that Northshore Hamilton would provide 2km of public river access.

Tunnel fill

Barry raised the issue of tunnel fill coming to the port. Rick advised that the Corporation had been approached in this regard but had not yet received any formal approaches to take this material as fill.

Leaking containers

Rick advised that the incident had been managed effectively in line with appropriate procedures, and that no adverse impacts had resulted from the incident.

Waste reception facility at Manly Boat Harbour

John asked about the waste reception facilities at Manly. Bill explained that the Corporation would be subsidising the installation of sewage-discharge points, and that port-a-potty dump stations

would be installed in about five weeks at the toilet block near the southern public boat ramp.

The Corporation has no live-aboards in its marina at Manly Boat Harbour and believes that the manned facilities, like Wynnum Manly Yacht Club, are a preferred option to putting a facility on the public jetty.

12. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 8 November 2006 at 6.00pm for 6.30pm at the Port of Brisbane Visitors Centre.