

Minutes of the Port of Brisbane Corporation Community Consultative Committee meeting

**Held at the Visitors Centre, Port of Brisbane
Wednesday, 8 November 2006**

Present:

Rick Morton (Chairman), Peter Waterman (Convenor), Jill Greenhill (Bayside Creeks Catchment Group), Sandra McLeod (Hemmant Community), Pamela Pavey (Manly Chamber of Commerce), Dennis O'Neill (North Point Residents Group), Cameron Thorpe (Port Community), Bill Benham (Rotary Club of Port of Brisbane), Barry Wilson (The Rivermouth Action Group Inc), Simon Baltais (Wildlife Preservation Society), Sarah Alexander (Wynnum Districts Chamber of Commerce), Bill Morley (PBC), Karen Weatherburn (PBC)

Guest Speakers

Iain MacCullough (Department of Emergency Services), Andrew Davidson (SEQ Catchments), Simone Maynard (SEQ Catchments)

Apologies:

Nikki Wood (Secretary), Margo Canavan (Pinkenba Community Association Inc), John Dobson (Moreton Bay Environmental Alliance), Doreen Draheim (Bayside Creeks Catchment Group), Catherine Brosnan (Wynnum Chamber of Commerce), Michael Healy (Wynnum Manly Regional Development Partnership)

1. Introduction of new members and observers

Rick welcomed new members, Cameron Thorpe as the representative of the port community, and Sarah Alexander as the new alternative representative of the Wynnum Chamber of Commerce.

2. Approval of minutes

The Committee approved the minutes of 2 August 2006 as being a true record of that meeting.

3. Business Arising

Procedures in place during nuclear ship calls

In response to an action item from the previous CCC meeting, Acting Principal Coordinator (Planning) from Emergency Management Queensland, Department of Emergency Services, Iain

MacCullough, attended the meeting to discuss the emergency procedures in place during visits by nuclear vessels. (See Agenda Item 4.)

4. Emergency procedures in place during visits by nuclear vessels

Iain MacCullough gave a presentation on the emergency procedures in place during visits by nuclear vessels. Iain described how nuclear vessels are powered, and what safeguards are in place to prevent and deal with emergencies. There are strict regulations set out by the Commonwealth about nuclear ship visits, and Emergency Services carry out a number of these responsibilities.

Generators are used as a power source for these vessels when they are in port, as land-based supplies do not have enough capacity. Representatives from the Corporation and a number of other agencies are involved in drills and meetings that occur before the ships visit. Bill asked if the incident control centre was run for all visits, and Iain responded that it only operated as a security measure when there was a call by a vessel such as the *Ronald Reagan*, which visited earlier this year. Simon asked if the reactors in these ships always emit radiation. Iain explained that they do, but the harmful types of radiation are blocked.

5. Ecosystems Services

Andrew Davidson and Simone Maynard from South East Queensland Catchments presented on the Ecosystems Services Project. Andrew explained his role and the role of SEQ Catchments. One of their key targets is to develop a common framework for ecosystems services in South East Queensland. Simone spoke about the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005), which was established by the United Nations. The project team worked to break down this global framework to a local level, to look at how our communities benefit from our ecosystems. There are four classifications of benefits: regulating, cultural, provisional and supporting. The team is now developing a range of products that can be used by industry.

Pamela pointed out that the ecosystems in boat harbours are rarely recognised and should be included as important areas in projects of this nature.

ACTION: Rick will organise future updates to the CCC by the project team

6. Stevedores' update

Queensland State Manager of DP World Brisbane, Cameron Thorpe, advised that growth has been strong over the past few months - about 5% for all operators. DP World Brisbane has recently demolished two cargo sheds to provide extra container-stacking space.

AAT and DP World are currently each demolishing a crane. Patrick will receive two new cranes on 16 November, and DP World will receive two new cranes in May 2007. These new cranes will be larger and much more efficient. DP World is also trialling a new initiative in Brisbane, aimed at reducing congestion through its terminal. So far the trial has been extremely successful.

7. Boat harbours update

Bill Morley gave an update on the Port of Brisbane Corporation's boat harbours. At Scarborough, the Corporation recently completed a \$1.2 million parkland, including public road access, car parking, walkway, lighting, landscaping and picnic shelters. As part of this project at Scarborough, the old fishermen's jetties were also demolished and replaced with a new, modern floating pontoon. The parkland runs along the Spit area, which also includes a dredged-material handling area.

8. Other business

Port of Brisbane Motorway Stage 2

Rick distributed copies of a letter he had received from the Queensland Department of Main Roads, which advised that the department is currently conducting a planning study for Stage 2 of the motorway, and the study is due for completion in early 2007. Rick gave some background on the issue, including serious safety concerns about the motorway in its current state. Rick encouraged the committee members to get behind the project and asked for their organisations to support its acceleration. Barry noted that, in the first stage of the motorway, the contractor did not consult with his organisation, and Rick said that all groups would be consulted in Stage 2.

Illegal dumping at Hemmant

Sandra said residents had noticed trucks illegally dumping a significant amount of fill on the flood plains behind the Hemmant school. Council has obtained a court order and stopped the dumping, but the fill has covered mangroves and waterways.

Residents had followed the trucks and suspect some of the fill may have come off port land.

ACTION: Rick will investigate this issue.

Port impacts on turtles and other marine animals

Rick responded to questions asked by committee members about port impacts on marine animals such as turtles, dolphins and whales. Rick said that unfortunately the Corporation dredger, the *Brisbane*, can injure turtles and has done so in the past. The Corporation closely monitors turtle incidents associated with the *Brisbane* and works with Col Limpus, a turtle specialist from the EPA, in this regard. The *Brisbane* is now fitted with turtle deflection devices, and, as a result, experiences very few turtle incidents (just one in 2005/2006). The Corporation has never had an impact on whales or dolphins; nor have any other Queensland ports.

Port impacts on air quality and climate change

Simon and Barry raised the issues of air quality and climate change, and how the port contributes to them. Rick explained the strict standards the Corporation puts in place for all port developments. These standards ensure that all developments have a minimal impact on the environment, and incorporate sustainable design features.

At the Port of Long Beach in the United States they use cold-ironing, which involves using electricity for ships in berth, rather than diesel-burning engines. Rick explained that the air quality in this area is very poor compared to Brisbane, so it is difficult to compare the two locations. Rick said the Corporation is going to look at cold-ironing, but also at other ways of reducing emissions, like cleaner fuels. The Corporation will focus on the issue of climate change over the next few years, and not just in relation to ships themselves (e.g. how we move containers).

Barry asked if the Brisbane City Council could come out to the port to measure truck emissions. Rick said the Corporation had already approached them about this, and this would be considered in the future.

9. Meetings for 2007

The meetings for 2007 are scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month as follows:

14 February 2007
9 May 2007

8 August 2007
14 November 2007

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