

# SOUTH SYDNEY AMATEUR FISHING ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 328, MATRAVILLE NSW 2036



FEBRUARY 2007

## The credibility of the NSW Government takes another knock courtesy of Sydney Port Corporation

To all concerned anglers in NSW,

Sydney Ports intends to take away our existing boat ramp facility and replace it with a weekend war zone as anglers, boat users, beach users and the community will have to fight for 130 car and trailer spaces in the new boat ramp facility they intend to build. The entire consultation process that began prior to 2003 has seen the entire community deceived. The members of South Sydney AFA who have participated every step of the way have been lied to as SPC tries to deliver a lemon to the local community in the form of a worthless boat ramp facility.

Outlined below is some of the rubbish and spin doctoring being delivered to the community by SPC;

(Extracts from the 2004 Environmental Impact Statement endorsed by SPC and the NSW Government)

- **(2004 EIS) Retention of Foreshore Beach for public recreation activities**

2006 SPC decided that the best way to retain Foreshore Beach was to take ½ of it away and force the beach users up towards a stormwater overflow that is potentially one of the most polluted drains in Sydney.

- **(2004 EIS) Restoration, protection and enhancement of the existing beach in areas where erosion is occurring**

2006 SPC decided that the best way to restore the eroded areas of Foreshore Beach was to reclaim them for their Port expansion and build a vertical rock wall where the beach once was.

- **(2004 EIS) Public Jetty at the new boat ramp facility**

2006 SPC tells us it is too expensive to build, forget about the elderly, disabled and kids who may want to fish somewhere in Botany Bay.

- **(2004 EIS) Car park for approximately 130 cars and boat trailers**

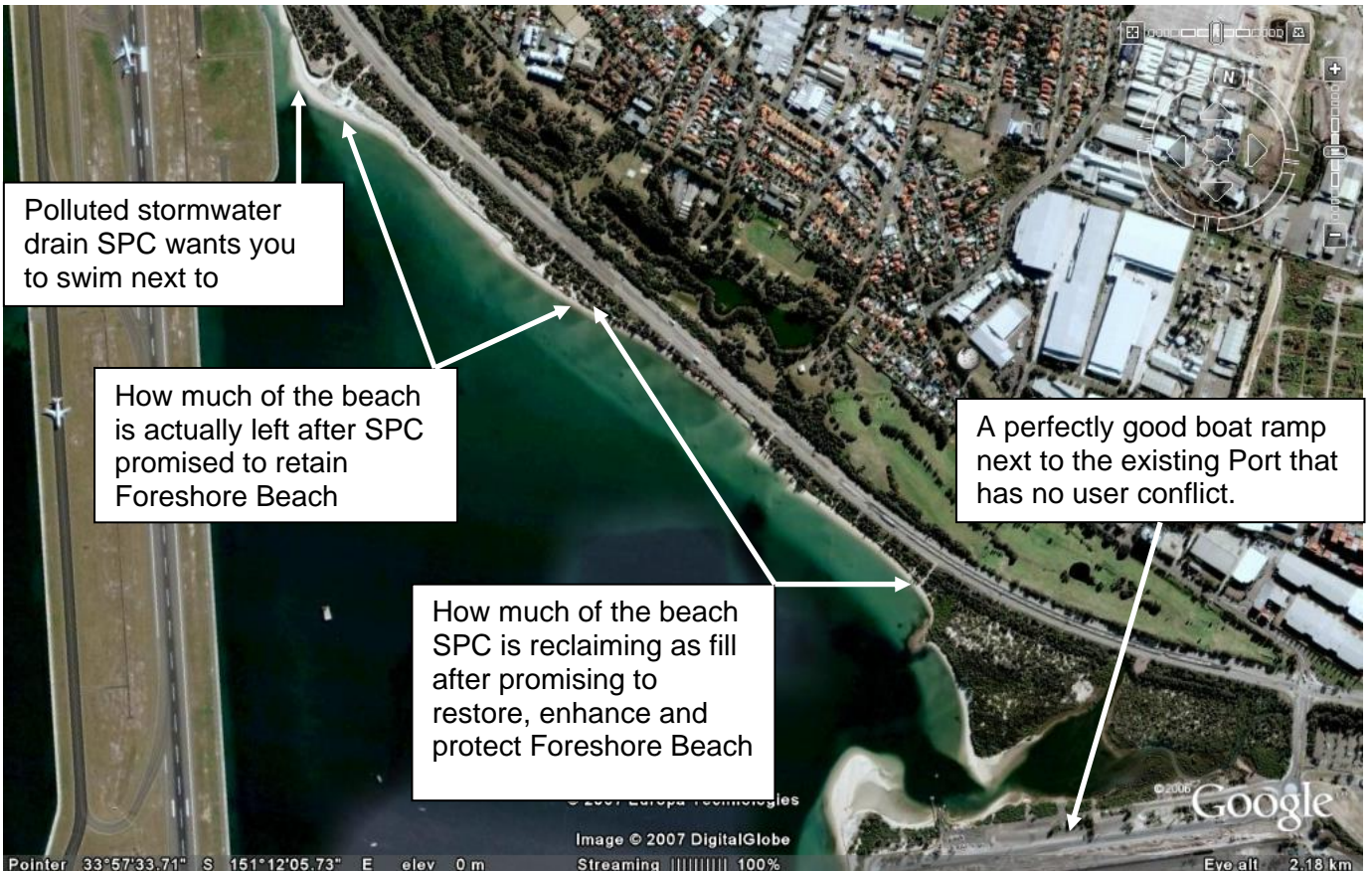
2006 SPC tell us that we will have to share these spots with the 140 cars that park along Foreshore Rd each weekend to use the beach as SPC intends to make Foreshore Rd a no parking zone. Since the boat trailers are attached to the cars we were under the impression that these would be designated trailer parking areas

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President

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At this point in time we have seen what SPC is offering and are not interested in what they are trying to sell. What is even more disappointing, after having wasted so much of our time at SPC's request to attend boat ramp planning meetings, community consultation committee meetings and open days is that they are just not listening. Their highly paid consultants and computer models (that NSW tax payers are having to fund) seem to disregard what countless years of local knowledge, 1000's of hours on the water and 1000's of boat launches are telling them, you models, projections and outlook is flawed.

Having been privy to the way SPC operates its community consultation, the end result is that the local community is treated with contempt. Also having to deal with what was purportedly stated at the most recent community open day by SPC to a SSAFA member; SPC's answer was that it had been misrepresented. Having spoken to the member involved I know who I believe.

Having waited since early August 2006 for a reply from our Planning Minister, Frank Sartor, we have been assured that by mid February 2007 we will have a reply to some of the issues we have raised about the whole Port expansion and the deception that has occurred. Being a State Significant Development, Mr Sartor has control of the entire approval process.

Our local member is also chasing a response from our Ports Minister, Joe Tripodi. NSW DPI-Fisheries representatives have met with SPC on advice from the Fisheries Minister Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing to discuss our concerns as well.

As fee paying anglers who paid approximately \$4M to buy out the commercial fishing licences and rights in Botany Bay and make it a Recreational Fishing Haven, the anglers of NSW must put a price on the 50 + hectares of the Bay that are being reclaimed and demand SPC pay suitable community compensation. \$2M would be a good start. This would buy us a jetty, a new ramp at Kurnell and 3 new fishing platforms within Botany Bay.

As advised by SPC, who are beyond listening to anything the community has to say, included below are the contact details of the local members involved within the Port Botany Expansion

boundary and ultimately the boat ramp facility. Whilst SPC only mentioned to contact the Local Members, SSAFA also thinks that it is appropriate that the Consultative Committee, the Minister for Ports and the Premier of NSW be updated as well. So who ever you chose to write to, send a copy of the letter to everyone listed,

**heffron@parliament.nsw.gov.au**

Kristina Keneally- Member for Heffron

**maroubra@parliament.nsw.gov.au**

Michael Daley- Member for Maroubra

**thepremier@www.nsw.gov.au**

Morris Iemma, Premier of NSW

**joe@tripodi.minister.nsw.gov.au**

Joe Tripodi, Minister for Ports

**botany.terminal.project@sydneyports.com.au**

Community Consultative Committee

**crudd@sydneyports.com.au**

Community Consultative Committee Colin Rudd- Sydney Ports

Alternatively feel free to contact me or drop into our fishing club on the corner of Hastings and Macquarie Streets Chiffley. We are open every Wednesday night from 7pm and willing to listen to whatever you have to say, unlike some.

One of the most disappointing aspects of this fight is that as a club SSAFA has a very high profile with many NSW Government departments and works with them on a daily basis on recreational fishing related issues. As the battle draws on and the construction begins, I can only see more conflict as land and water protests, blockades and other measures are considered. The very people we work with, including the Police and the Marine Area Command will be drawn into the fight for appropriate community compensation.

Finally, I can understand how our esteemed and family orientated Premier, Morris Iemma got hot under the collar when dealing with the Cross City Tunnel management and his now famous F#\$@\$wit quote, welcome to our world Mr Premier, we have had to swallow this rubbish for almost 6 years.

Yours sincerely



Stan Konstantaras

President – South Sydney Amateur Fishing Association

President- Australian National Sportfishing Association – NSW Branch