

# SOUTH SYDNEY AMATEUR FISHING ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 328, MATRAVILLE NSW 2036



MARCH 2007

## Sydney Port Corporation and its Green Port Guidelines: A Green RORT, not PORT!

To all concerned anglers in NSW,

Sydney Ports continues to woo the anglers of NSW with its motto that it is a good corporate citizen and that the anglers, and in fact the entire community is happy to have this monster on their doorstep. The Greens have woken up and now are up in arms that almost 80% of Foreshore Beach will be lost. Meetings continue with the actual people who may be able to help us with this fight for adequate compensation against SPC. The Minister for Ports staff are meeting with us and trying to mediate a satisfactory outcome for us, The Minister for Fisheries staff are progressing the issue of compensation through official channels on our behalf and we are taking legal advice on these matters as well.

When the time comes, the recreational anglers of NSW will dig into their pockets and take SPC to court over the loss of access and appropriate compensation.

Since 1979, when 121 hectares were reclaimed from Botany Bay to build the Port and its infrastructure, we have lost our beaches due to poor hydraulic modelling, fish stocks, oysters and seagrass beds which are a crucial breeding ground to prawns and fish and this continues in 2007, you would think we have learned something. In 2007 another 57 hectares will be reclaimed and additionally approximately 50 hectares will be off limits as a new shipping channel and operational exclusion zone for the Port expansion

1975 - 121 hectares reclaimed from Botany Bay

2007- 57 hectares reclaimed from Botany Bay

2007- Approximately 50 hectares of exclusion zones around the new Port

This is what Botany Bay looked like in 1975 when the Bay was reclaimed to start construction of the new facility



*Image from SPC- Chapter 4 -Evolution of the Port*

However in 2007, the recreational anglers of NSW are stakeholders in Botany Bay, having paid \$4.2 million dollars of their own money for exclusive fishing rights on Botany Bay and want compensation for loss of access.

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Delving deeper into the claim that SPC is a good corporate citizen and reading their “Green Port Guidelines” for sustainable port developments, it is evident that SPC is great at giving themselves a pat on the back whenever they can.

One only has to read the introduction - “SPC has a significant role to play in the management of two of Sydney’s most precious natural resources. We are active in protecting these community assets and are committed to minimising impacts on the environment”. When you have stopped laughing at that, have a look at the following picture, it’s on the cover of their Green Port Guidelines. The entire beach will be destroyed and reclaimed, the tree will be gone and the estuary in the background ripped out. Time for a new cover SPC.



*Image from SPC- Cover Green Port Guidelines*

The guide is meant to be used by developers; it is a shame SPC did not bother reading it before designing the Port expansion!

It even gets funnier the more you read on, under the Transportation section, SPC states that “Motor cars, trucks and other vehicles contribute to global warming....They also generate many other forms of air and noise pollution. Reducing the number of vehicle on the road not only reduces pollution, but congestion, stress and accidents...”

Its suggestions for building a green Port facility include limiting the number of car spaces available on site, provide cycle facilities on site, improve cycle paths and footpath within the site, implement a car share plane for employees and provide facilities to reduce business travel from the site.

All this while increasing the truck movements in and around the area of Botany from 25% to 40% or from 2913 trucks per day in 2003 to more than 4700 trucks per day in 2021. It seems that beyond the insulated world of the new Port expansion complex, SPC does not give a crap about what it is doing to the environment and its impacts on global warming. Read the document for yourself, it is one of the most hilarious around.

SPC has lied and continues to perpetuate the lies it has told the community, even now claiming that it did not tell us that it intended to close Foreshore Rd to parking when it builds the Port, the invited participants that were at the meeting beg to differ with SPC on what they actually said.

Some more lies from 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 more than 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



*Image from SPC- EIS Brochure*

The above picture shows the expansion footprint; What the SPC spiel does not say is that the area within the red lines is an exclusion zone, off limits to everyone. Reality of the matter is that over 100 hectares is being reclaimed or stolen from recreational anglers without adequate compensation.

The list of deception is endless, from planting of new seagrass beds to the issue of parking, the track record that SPC has is deplorable.

On the issue of replanting new seagrass beds to replace the ones that SPC will rip out, others have tried and failed - seagrass beds that are replanted do not work. The list of examples up and down the coast is endless and only last week a meeting with Sydney Water to talk about the desalination plant pipeline across the Bay revealed that Sydney Water was not confident that all the replanted seagrass over a Kurnell would survive. Sydney Water was at least agreeable to alternative habitat solutions and enhancement once the pipe had been installed to compensate for loss of habitat.

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 whoever 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 Chifley. We are open every Wednesday night from 7pm and willing to listen to whatever you have to say, unlike some.



This is Port Botany today, take a close look just in case your kids or grandkids ask you what it was like to fish in Botany Bay before it was all concrete.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Konstantaras". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stan Konstantaras

President – South Sydney Amateur Fishing Association

President- Australian National Sportfishing Association – NSW Branch