

# SOUTH SYDNEY AMATEUR FISHING ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 328, MATRAVILLE NSW 2036



DECEMBER 2006

## Thanks for nothing Sydney Ports Corporation.

To all concerned anglers in NSW,

As Sydney Ports Corporation (SPC) commences carving up your recreational fishing haven that you funded and are still paying off the millions of dollars it took to create, SPC has embarked on some spin doctoring of their own.

At a recent Community Open Day, Sydney Ports Corporation responded to criticism of the planned boat ramp facility by telling participants to go and see their local members if they had problems, they were not interested. In light of this fact, South Sydney Amateur Fishing Association (SSAFA) is disappointed to see a NSW Government conglomerate like SPC, which is funded by your taxpaying dollar, taking this stance and not even offering any guidance on who to contact. SSAFA has taken the liberty of informing the public since it doubts SPC will be as forthcoming with any more useful advice.

As advised by SPC, 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 the addresses highlighted with \* or preferably a copy 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**  
Colin Rudd- Sydney Ports

Ultimately the views expressed in your personal correspondence will be your own, but the following diagram gives you an accurate and indisputable view of what is happening in Botany Bay. If Sydney Ports want to deny the anglers of NSW access to 50 hectares of a resource anglers paid for, it must follow the precedent already set for when the commercial anglers of Botany Bay were paid compensation for loss of access to the resource when the 3<sup>rd</sup> runway was built. Recreational anglers paid compensation to the commercial sector for exactly the same thing during the creation of the Botany Bay recreational fishing haven.

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**This how much of the Bay we are losing. (50 ha)**

**This is what SPC is giving us back, 13 extra parking spaces in the new boat ramp facility. The current ramp has 117 spaces and previously we had Penrhyn Rd for an extra 100 car / trailer overflow parking spaces at peak times. We already have 6 lanes for launching our boats, fish cleaning and toilet amenities and boat wash down facilities at our existing boat facility.**

**As a Christmas bonus, Sydney Ports will be making Foreshore Rd NO PARKING. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of October at 2.30pm, 79 cars and 2 motorbikes were parked on one side of Foreshore Rd. These cars will be forced to park in your boat trailer parking spots. Also where will the usual 50 -100 trailer skels that line Foreshore Rd park?**

**In December 2006, in the local press, SPC said the new ramp was sufficient.  
“...the local boating / fishing community are being well catered for” SPC**

Having been invited to and participated in the entire 'consultation' process that SPC has initiated for the past few years, SSAFA is disappointed that SPC has not delivered a promise to build a better boat ramp facility. All it has done is replace the existing facility and swallowed up 50 ha of Botany Bay.

Let's not forget that SPC **had** to replace the current boat ramp as part of its development application and contrary to what the spin doctors tell us, it is doing the anglers of NSW no favours. The planned facility will struggle to cope with increased patronage beyond the first day it is opened.

The lack of vision extended to the new ramp facility by SPC is contrary to the mega structure that they are building in the shape of the port expansion. This low end solution for the new ramp facility will see anglers having to line up for up to an hour on a weekend to launch or retrieve their boats if better facilities are not provided. This is even the case now when all 6 existing ramps are operational at high tide. The current ramp was built 15 years ago; our new ramp design is 15 years old plus 13 extra car spaces. How is this low end solution going to cater for us in 2020, when the design will be 30 years out of date?

Let's also not forget that after dealing with SPC for quite a few years on the design of the ramp, they had the nerve to announce only a few weeks ago that they intend to make Foreshore Rd 'NO PARKING'. Where will the 100 plus cars that park on Foreshore Rd each day to use current beach go? SPC tells us that they can park 1 km away in Botany and walk to the beach via a new overhead bridge. Great vision SPC if it expects a beach user to bypass 130 car trailer parking spots on the beach and walk 1km to avoid any potential conflict with a boat user. SSAFA recommends that SPC go down to Rose Bay boat ramp on any weekend and see how successful this vision really is.

SSAFA has records of all correspondence with SPC when dealing with boat ramp facility design. The minutes of these meeting reveal a different picture of what was really happening and that far from amicable discussions that SPC claims took place.

This extract from the last meeting minutes that SSAFA participated in before the final plan was unveiled at the open day, a plan SPC said was not negotiable:

Extract from SPC minutes of meeting 10<sup>th</sup> October 2006

██████ presented the designs for the boat ramp, which have been prepared after taking into account input received from the last meeting.

JB \* objected to being presented with these designs, saying none of the input that had been given by the group at the last meeting has been taken into account. The issues were:

- A beach area for the boats to be parked while the owner gets the vehicle and trailer.
- Extra parking on Foreshore Road for beach users.
- Longer groyne to protect the boat ramp against waves and wind, with a curved end for greater protection.
- No provision had been made for fishing off the ramp

(\* JB- SSAFA member and ANSA representative)

The entire design process that SSAFA and the community participated in has achieved nothing. Worse, the concept of community / user consultation has been treated with contempt.

One of the solutions that SPC had to the beach user patronage and carparking conflict issue is to take ½ of Foreshore Beach away and use it as fill for the Port, very clever. Have a look on the SPC website; it gives a great rationale for taking the beach. It basically says in order to stop the erosion of the beach that will be caused by the port expansion SPC will have to take the beach

away and use it as land fill. By the way, while SPC is at it they will take a few sand hills, some sand flats and maybe a little bit here and there.



Here is a spin on the words dredging and habitat degradation; SPC calls this 'environmental enhancement'. In 2004 when the concept drawings were paraded, the entire Foreshore Beach is represented. The very same concept drawing in 2006 has half the beach missing. From the original EIS in 2004 the plans show a Foreshore Beach east of the new boat ramp facility and the Penrhyn estuary intact. In 2006 the beach is missing and the estuary stripped. The EIS states that the "retention of Foreshore Beach for public recreation activities" is vital and that SPC also recognised the importance of this issue.

In reality Foreshore Beach will be reduced down from approx 1.5 km long down to a sandy strip of approx 600 meters adjacent to the highly polluted Millpond Stream. It is obvious that SPC does not want the public to make use of the beach and is denying local residents a valuable and historic beachside amenity.

SSAFA is well placed to comment on the lack of vision and level of community consultation that has taken place with regards to the boat ramp facility. As a club with 160 family orientated members, we are active participants and work cooperatively with other NSW Government agencies in the promotion of recreational fishing at a state, national and international level.

Our members actively participate in the following representative recreational and government bodies at an Executive level, this includes:

- State and National Branches of the Australian National Sportfishing Association
- NSW Fishing Clubs Association Inc
- Australian Underwater Federation
- Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW Inc
- NSW Recreational Fishing Trust Fund Expenditure Committee
- RECFISH- National Peak Recreational Fishing Body
- NSW Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing
- Australian Water Safety Council

SSAFA is well placed to state publicly that it represents the anglers of NSW in negotiating a better deal for a community compensation package. SPC is welcome to challenge such a claim. Having worked very closely and achieved very positive results with other government agencies over the past 10 years, which include the Department of Sport & Recreation and NSW DPI-

Fisheries, the contempt shown to recreational anglers and the community in general by this government department is appalling. SPC is just not listening.

Following are issues that South Sydney AFA demands that SPC must address in an appropriate compensation package for the anglers of NSW:

- Additional parking for 100 cars needs to be integrated into a new design to cater for all users of Foreshore Beach due to the fact the SPC intends to make Foreshore Rd a no parking zone. Alternatively make the centre of Foreshore Rd all parking; this will also accommodate any spillover when the ramp facility reaches full capacity in the future.
- Appropriate compensation for the loss of 50 ha of the Botany Bay recreational fishing haven. Indicative cost for the loss of access to the resource and habitat degradation is \$2million dollars.
- Additional community compensatory measures, including the provision for 3 new fishing piers around Botany Bay. One fishing pier at the new ramp facility, one at LaPerouse and one at Dolls Point.
- Construction of another boat ramp at Kurnell to address the current deficiency and to cater for future boating demands
- A boat wash down facility.

One key aspect of the entire process was that SSAFA was going to claim some ownership of our wonderful new boat ramp facility and help SPC with some of the management issues. Whether it was a clean up Australia Day campaign or helping SPC coordinate the building works, SSAFA indicated that it would be happy to assist. SSAFA was also asked to help SPC limit the impacts of the building of the new ramp and closing of the existing ramp or even helping in other maintenance issues and was very happy to work with SPC when they made this request. If things keep going the way they are heading, no cooperation will be forthcoming and only conflict, potential blockades on land and water and protests may result.

We need the support of all recreational anglers and the community in general to secure a fair and equitable outcome with SPC. If we don't make our concerns clear and loud then it will be a case where the SPC and the Government can say they consulted with the public and we got what the majority of people wanted.

Don't be complacent – stand up, be counted and talk to your local member.

Help the anglers of NSW get a better deal for the loss of 50 hectares of access to the resource that they paid for when they borrowed money from NSW Treasury to make the Bay a recreational fishing haven.

Yours sincerely



Stan Konstantaras  
President – South Sydney Amateur Fishing Association  
President- Australian National Sportfishing Association – NSW Branch