



OATLEY FLORA & FAUNA CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC



BOB WALSH: 'Botany Bay in Peril'

The latest major threat to Botany Bay and Georges River is a proposal to greatly extend the container facilities at Port Botany. This may complete the destruction of the few remaining good habitat areas of the Bay such as Penrhyn Inlet and Towra Point. The proposed Extension would double the number of large ships entering the Bay, greatly increase road traffic congestion and enclose the endangered waterbird habitat of Penrhyn Estuary. The resulting impacts would be significant. Yet the Environment Impact Statement says that all impacts will be "within manageable limits". This must be challenged. **You can view the executive summary at <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/asp/eis.asp?type=dev>.**

Our speaker Bob Walshe has had an outstanding career as teacher, writer, publisher and community activist. His voluntary community work has been recognised with awards such as Sutherland Shire Citizen of the Year (1995), Order of Australia Medal (1998) and Centenary Medal (2001).

Meeting: Monday **March 22** 7.45 pm, **Uniting Church Hall, Frederick Street, Oatley**

BBACA notes five priority objections to the expansion:

1. Key objection: **Transport Congestion** in the Botany/Airport/M5/Alexandria/Enfield area.
This single road-rail-airport issue is enough on its own to defeat the proposal!
It is the 'impact' that is basic to all the many 'cumulative impacts'.
It readily embraces other significant impacts, e.g. noise/air/visual pollution.
2. Damage to Botany **Bay's Ecology** which is already struggling.
Dredging of 7.5 million cubic metres of sand will be harmful to shallow Botany Bay
Frequency of deep-draft ship visits, plus increased likelihood of invasive organisms.
Wharf will surround Penrhyn Estuary, the last shorebird habitat on north side.
3. Already excessive concentration of **Hazardous Industries**.
Banksmeadow-Botany-Matraville storages of oil/gas/chemicals, most dangerous in the State.
An easy target for terrorists: the knock-on effects of any explosion would be horrific.
4. Accumulating **Health Hazards**.
Deadly EDC plume, Orica's HCB dump, poisoning of Botany Aquifer.
Worsening of air pollution, noise pollution.
5. Affronts to any of 5 Principles of **Ecologically Sustainable Development**.
1. Precautionary Principle 2. Inter-generational Equity 3. Conservation of Biological Diversity and Ecological Integrity 4. Improved Valuation and Pricing of Environmental Resources 5. Integration of Environmental, Social and Economic Goals in Decision Making.

ALTERNATIVE. Upgrade the freight capacity of Port Kembla and Newcastle's port, and upgrade also their rail-integration with Greater Sydney.

TIME. There is time for this much-needed regional development of Port Kembla (Wollongong) and Newcastle because the present capacity of Port Botany will not be reached till 2010 – that is, there's 6-7 years to develop freight-rail integration of the two-regions with Greater Sydney, helping employment and trade.

DA Number: DA-494-11-2003-i

Applicant: Sydney Ports Corporation

Submission to: Major Development Assessment - Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources GPO Box 3927

to: SYDNEY NSW 2001

Closing date: Monday, March 29, 2004

Further

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