

Minutes of a Meeting of the

SYDNEY PORTS CARGO FACILITATION COMMITTEE (No.09/2009)

Ground Floor Meeting Room of Moores Warehouse at Sydney Ports Corporation

Tuesday 15th September 2009 11:00am

PRESENT:

Mr Hart Krtschil	Chairman
Mr Brian Bourke	Australian Customs and Boarder Protection Service
Mr Elton McKay	Australian Federation of International Forwarders
Mr Lakhwinder Brar	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
Ms Julie Sims	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
Mr Paul Zalai	Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia
Mr Ben Hanley	DP World
Mr Claude Varnier	Patrick Port Logistics
Mr Mick Egan	Patrick Terminals
Mr Mark Ripka	Sydney Ports Corporation
Mr Mark Deacon	Sydney Ports Corporation
Mr Spencer Palfreeman	Sydney Ports Corporation

APOLOGIES:

Mr Steve Tonkin	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
Mr Mike Moylan	Australian Trucking Association NSW
Mr Craig McKay	Macarthur Intermodal Shipping Terminal (MIST)
Mr Glenn Wood	Maritime Union of Australia
Sgt Mark Crelley	NSW Police
Mr Nicholas Angelos	RailCorp
Mr Andrew Karas	Shipping Australia Limited
Mr Sam Crosby	Transport Workers Union
Ms Jenny Jones	Sydney Ports Corporation
Mr Lachlan Benson	Sydney Ports Corporation

1. APOLOGIES AND MEMBERSHIP

Ms Julie Sims, AQIS NSW Senior Manager Cargo, was welcomed as a representative for Australian Quarantine and Inspection. It was noted that Mr Lakhwinder Brar will shortly be starting a new role with AQIS Airport. Mr Krtschil, on behalf of members thanked Mr Brar for his commitment and service to the committee.

Apologies were accepted from Mr Angelos, Mr Karas, Mr McKay, Mr Moylan, Mr Wood, Sgt Crelley, Mr Crosby, Ms Jones, Mr Tonkin and Mr Benson.

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of meeting No. 08/2009, held on Tuesday, 18th August 2009, were confirmed by members.

3. MATTER ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No matter arose from the August 2009 meeting.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Port Position

Mr Palfreeman advised members that the monthly container throughput figure for August 2009 was 155,400 TEUs, 40,000 TEUs being empty and 115,400 TEUs full. This represents a variance of negative 9,900 TEUs from the same month of the previous year. A breakdown of the August 2009 throughput is as follows;

Aug-09	Import	Export	Total
Full	78,400	37,000	115,400
Empty	1,800	38,200	40,000
Total	80,200	75,200	155,400

*Values are rounded (TEUs)

Aug-09		Import	Export	Total
Full	20' Containers	27,100	17,000	44,100
	40' Containers	25,600	10,000	35,600
Empty	20' Containers	1,400	9,400	10,800
	40' Containers	250	14,400	14,650
	Total	54,350	50,800	105,150

*Values are rounded (Containers)

B. Port Developments

Mr Ripka informed members that the mediations works for the Enfield Intermodal Logistics Centre (ILC) are due to be complete at the end of 2009 while the tenders for operators are currently being processed by Sydney Ports.

Mr Ripka advised that the tender process for the third terminal has been extended with an announcement expected by year end, while wharf planning is proceeding for the second Bulk Liquid Berth.

Mr Ripka informed members that the Sydney Ports Operation Centre will be opening early 2010 on the Interterminal Access Road. The interterminal Access road will be closed with a section to be provided to DP World to be used as an extended rail siding.

Mr Deacon informed members that grade separation works for the Penrhyn Road overpass are expected to commence end 2009 and is expected to be completed 2011. Changes to traffic conditions are being discussed between the relevant parties.

Mr Ripka informed members that a location for a second cruise terminal is currently being reviewed by an industry consultative committee. A separate committee is reviewing the need for a third cruise to the East of the Harbour Bridge.

C. Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS)

Mr Brar informed members that 46,974 containers had been inspected for the month of August 2009, a decrease of 2,785 containers from the previous month. The level of contamination rate (which necessitates off site cleaning of containers) remains less than 1%.

Mr Brar advised members that on the 11th September 2009 inspection procedures for containers on rail had been changed to a risk based assessment. Mr Krtschil noted that the majority of containers on rail go to metropolitan intermodals and not to regional intermodals. The major issue for this initiative is how to effectively and efficiently target high risk containers.

D. Australian Customs Service (ACS)

Mr Bourke informed members that the Integrated Cargo System (ICS) Import Lines were at 74,776 in August 2009, an increase of 766 from the previous month.

The national on-time reporting performance was recorded at 93%. The on-time reporting performance for each state for August 2009 was recorded as follows:

- New South Wales 92%
- Victoria 93%
- Queensland 93%
- West Australia 95%
- South Australia 91%

More detailed information on the ACS statistics can be found attached to these minutes.

E. Industrial Issues

No industrial issues were raised by members for September 2009.

F. Road Transport

Mr Hanley informed members that DP World is taking measures to reduce the truck turnaround times on the Friday night to Saturday shift.

Mr Egan advised that recently there have been no major road issues at Patrick. Several cases with individual road carriers had been addressed and resolved. Mr Krtschil noted that The Australian Trucking Association declined to have a meeting with the stevedores as they were happy with the current level of communications.

Mr Deacon advised members that Sydney Ports and consultants ARAP are conducting a study on road safety within the Port Precinct. Dangerous truck movements around the entrance to Origin Energy were highlighted as a major safety issue. More information and remedies will be provided to members when the study is complete. Mr Ripka also noted that at the change of shift at DP World, stack run trucks were being blocked from entering the terminal by staff vehicles causing congestion onto Friendship Road. Mr Hanley advised that the entrance for stack runs will eventually be moved to Charlotte Road.

G. Rail Transport

No Rail Transport issues were raised for September 2009.

Details of major track possessions can be found attached to these minutes.

H. Empty Container Parks

Mr Varnier advised members that the overall empty container storage level for 14th September 2009 was 68.5%. Members were informed that the volume of empty 40” containers has levelled off. Due to rain in rural areas in the previous weeks grain trains have stopped running which, has increased the number of 20” containers in the parks. Mr Varnier noted it was still important to monitor the level of 40” containers. Mr Krtschil suggested park capacity should be closely monitored as capacity figures could reach figures higher than last year. Low demand for containers in Europe has prevented a large level of container evacuation. Mr Ripka asked what the average dwell time was for an empty container within the parks. Mr Varnier advised that dwell times can be deceptive as each park varies according to the dynamics of the individual park’s services, eg leasing co storage facilities through to repositioning facilities.

Members noted that empty parks had been proactive in using 1-Stop as a means to notify industry of any issues or changes to operations

Further details on empty container storage levels for September 2009 are attached to these minutes.

I. Electronic Cargo Release

Members agreed that electronic cargo release would be removed as an agenda item commencing from the October 2009 meeting.

J. Dangerous Goods

Mr Krtschil suggested David Taylor, Manager Dangerous Good Sydney Ports should present to the committee on the yellow lines dangerous good category. Mr Palfreeman advised that the category is not yet confirmed however David Taylor will be invited to the next meeting to answer any questions from members.

K. Port Plan for Peak Periods

Mr Ripka informed members that the Port Road Taskforce has been placed on hold while Lachlan Benson is on leave and Sydney Ports finalises internal documents. The Botany Rail Team continues to meet with rail operators and will meet at Minto next week to observe the operations of the intermodal.

Members discussed the action items tabled at the Transport Workshop 2009, action items are as follows;

TW Action Item 2: Review of the Weight Restrictions for Super B-Doubles

Mr Deacon has requested the Roads and Traffic Authority to monitor bridge loads within the Port Precinct.

TW Action Item 14: Supply of food-quality empty containers for regional exporters

Mr Varnier informed members that there is still a shortage of 20' food quality containers in circulation for regional exports. It was advised that Shipping Australia is aiming to unify the different container food quality standards. Mr Krtschil noted that FALCONSW have previously raised the issue of 20" container requirements to be classified as food quality containers.

5. REPORTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

No reports by committee members for August 2009.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Australian Federation of International Forwarders

Mr McKay informed members that there has been an increase in the number of invoices with inaccurate container detention costs. This provides an extra administration hassle for forwarders which find the errors, however those which don't are being charged non-existing costs. There needs to be responsibility placed on the Shipping lines to provide correct data and invoices.

7. NEXT MEETING

Sydney Ports Cargo Facilitation Committee

The next meeting of the Sydney Ports Cargo Facilitation Committee will be held on Tuesday, 20th October 2009. The Chairman closed the meeting at 12:10 pm.