

Minutes of a Meeting of the

SYDNEY PORTS CARGO FACILITATION COMMITTEE (No.11/2009)

Ground Floor Meeting Room of Moores Warehouse at Sydney Ports Corporation

Tuesday 17th November 2009 11:00am

PRESENT:

Mr Hart Krtschil	Chairman
Mr Elton McKay	Australian Federation of International Forwarders
Mr Bill Lovatt	Australian Trucking Association NSW
Mr Steve Tonkin	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
Mr Paul Zalai	Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia
Mr Ben Hanley	DP World
Mr Paul Ruating	Maritime Union of Australia
Mr Claude Varnier	Patrick Port Logistics
Mr Nicholas Angelos	RailCorp
Ms Helen Bellette	Transport Workers Union
Mr Lachlan Benson	Sydney Ports Corporation
Mr Mark Ripka	Sydney Ports Corporation
Mr Mark Deacon	Sydney Ports Corporation
Mr Spencer Palfreeman	Sydney Ports Corporation

APOLOGIES:

Mr Brian Bourke	Australian Customs and Boarder Protection Service
Mr Craig McKay	Macarthur Intermodal Shipping Terminal (MIST)
Mr Glenn Wood	Maritime Union of Australia
Sgt Mark Crelley	NSW Police
Mr Andrew Karas	Shipping Australia Limited
Ms Jenny Jones	Sydney Ports Corporation

1. APOLOGIES AND MEMBERSHIP

Apologies were accepted from Mr Karas, Mr McKay, Mr Wood, Sgt Crelley, Ms Jones and Mr Bourke.

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of meeting No. 010/2009, held on Tuesday, 20th October 2009, were confirmed by members.

3. MATTER ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No matter arose from the October 2009 meeting.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Port Position

Mr Palfreeman advised members that the monthly container throughput figure for October 2009 was 176,130 TEUs, 45,710 TEUs being empty and 130,420 TEUs full. This represents a variance of 9,030 TEUs from the same month of the previous year. It was noted that this was the highest monthly throughput figure recording at Port Botany. Mr Palfreeman suggested that there are several reasons for the large increase in throughput. A change of the peak season coupled with the poor weather experienced in September resulted in volumes being shifted to October. Further analysis can be found in the Sydney Ports, October 2009 Trade Bulletin at the following link; http://www.sydneyports.com.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/11618/October_trade_stats_bulletin_2009.pdf. A breakdown of the October 2009 throughput is as follows;

Oct-09	Import	Export	Total
Full	92,660	37,760	130,420
Empty	2,720	42,990	45,710
Total	95,380	80,750	176,130

*Values are rounded (TEUs)

Oct-09		Import	Export	Total
Full	20' Containers	31,160	16,810	47,970
	40' Containers	30,750	10,480	41,230
Empty	20' Containers	2,150	10,390	12,540
	40' Containers	280	16,300	16,580
	Total	64,340	53,980	118,320

*Values are rounded (Containers)

B. Port Developments

Mr Deacon informed members that the new Port Botany boat ramp was recently opened to the public. It was noted that Sydney Ports will be monitoring the ramp to prevent illegal truck parking and staging.

Mr Deacon informed members that the remediation 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 Deacon advised that approximately one counter fort will be sunk each day for the next 12 months as part of the construction works for the third terminal. The tender process for an operator is still being conducted and an announcement is expected in the coming weeks.

Mr Ripka informed members that the Hale Street extension to Foreshore Road has been approved. It was noted that the Council has placed restrictions on truck movements which will hinder the efficiency of 24/7 operations. Sydney Ports will continue to

consult with the Council to resolve this issue. Mr Krtchil noted that FALCONSW has produced a document which details port access restrictions.

C. Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS)

Mr Tonkin advised that the level of contamination rate (which necessitates off site cleaning of containers) remains less than 1%.

Mr Tonkin informed members that AQIS are continuing to review recommendations from the Beale review.

Mr Krtschil advised members that companies which fumigate have produced a paper raising concerns about recent AQIS Methyl Bromide Fumigation Standard. The key issues raised were;

- Equipment and requirements for site accreditation for fumigation;
- Suitability of facilities and cargo to allow for fumigation;
- Onus of responsibility on the fumigator to know what level of fumigation will be required for different cargo and packaging; and
- The length of time and ventilation required to meet the new standards and the affects of this along the container supply chain.

Mr Varnier informed members that new requirements for fumigators will create further cost and delay to importers and that brokers and importers do not appear to be aware of these issues.

With regard to the ventilation process fumigators do place stickers over the doors to inform the end container opener that there may be pockets of gas still in the container. It was advised that the secretariat would distribute the paper and related documents.

Action Item 11/2009–01: Secretariat to distribute documents on fumigation to committee members.

D. Australian Customs Service (ACS)

No Customs Service issues were raised for November 2009.

E. Industrial Issues

Mr Hanley informed members that the Australian Maritime Union will be holding its Annual General Meeting Tuesday 24th November 2009. DP World will be closing from the 10am slots. Mr Hanley advised that a 1-Stop notice will be distributed to inform of the AGM and changes to operations.

F. Road Transport

Mr Krtschil noted that road servicing by stevedores had improved in recent weeks. Mr Hanley informed members that DP World had experienced congestion earlier in the week. Congestion was caused by a combination of absentees from the Monday day shift and overnight planning errors. It was advised that DP World is working to improve landside operations through improved planning measures.

Mr Lovatt informed members that road carriers are increasingly unable to get in contact with DP World staff during weekend shifts. Mr Benson advised that no 1-Stop notice had been produced when DP World experienced congestion on weekend shifts. Mr Hanley explained that the majority of calls are from carriers requesting extra slots and during times of congestion this exacerbates the issue.

Mr Krtschil noted that there had been constructive meeting between stevedores and road carriers during the recent weeks. Mr Benson advised that Sydney Ports would be happy to continue mediating at these meetings.

Ms Bellette advised members the Waterfront Committee an amalgamation of the Transport Workers Union (TWU), Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) and Rail Tram and Bus Union is compiling a paper to outline their position on amenities and facilities for truck drivers within the Port Precinct. When the plan is complete there will be consultation with the Australian Trucking Association. It was noted that Sydney Ports has already consulted the TWU in relation to the installation of Port amenities for truck drivers.

G. Rail Transport

Mr Angelos informed members that the weekend possessions for 14th-15th November 2009 had been cancelled and put back to late January 2010. Mr Hanley advised that notification of the cancellation was given to late as labour resources had already been allocated and windows were unutilised. Mr Benson also noted that Sydney Ports was not notified in a timely fashion. Mr Angelos explained that notification of the cancellation was given as soon as the decision was made.

Mr Benson informed members that the Port Botany Rail Team (PBRT) is reviewing track possessions. It has been observed that possessions are timed during periods of passenger rail off-peak but not port rail off-peak and coincided with periods of high container movement.

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

H. Empty Container Parks

Mr Varnier informed members that 45,700 empty containers had been evacuated throughout October 2009. Empty container parks operational capacity reached a high of 87.9% at the end of September. As of Monday 16th November capacity was at 81.9%.

Mr Krtschil suggested that there should be a review of the individual companies which leave containers at empty parks for extended periods of time. Heavy offenders should then be looked at and addressed.

Mr Varnier advised that there have been empty sweepers evacuating empty containers from Port Botany. It was noted that communication from container parks had been proactive.

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

I. Dangerous Goods

Mr Deacon advised members that David Taylor, Manager Dangerous Goods, Sydney Ports will be engaged to give a presentation on amber line cargo at either the February or March meeting of the SPCFC.

J. Port Plan for Peak Periods

Mr Hanley noted that while there is still more work to be done there has been notable improvements in performance from the previous peak seasons.

Mr Krtschil noted that through PBLIS there has been a good improvement in communications between industry groups.

5. REPORTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

No reports by committee members for November 2009.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed for November 2009.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Sydney Ports Cargo Facilitation Committee will be held on Tuesday, 15th December 2009. The Chairman closed the meeting at 12:10 pm.