



The Port Botany Expansion (PBE) project comprises a new 63 ha container terminal, five new shipping berths including 1850 metres of wharf face with associated road and rail links and environmental areas and community benefits. The expansion will provide significant additional capacity to meet projected long-term trade growth for Sydney.

Construction Progress Update – May 2009

Current phase/stage of the construction development

- Civil works at Port Botany commenced in June 2008. Dredging activity commenced in September 2008 and will continue through until 2010 with the terminal expansion works scheduled for completion in mid 2011.
- The operator of the new container terminal will then undertake works before commencing operations in 2012.

Recent achievements

- The large cutter suction dredge “Leonardo da Vinci” left the PBE site on 20 April 2009 for Port Hedland with approximately 3,400,000 cubic metres of material now dredged, making 30% of total dredging complete. This includes the dredging of the east west trench in preparation for the placement of the concrete counterfort units which will form the perimeter of the reclamation. The De Bougainville dredge, a trailer suction hopper dredge, is due on site on 6 June 2009.
- The placement of silt curtains to contain any turbidity caused by dredging has been very successful. The level of turbidity resulting from the dredging was significantly less than was anticipated and well within approved levels.
- Works on Foreshore Road associated with the signalised intersections for the New Terminal access and the new Boat Ramp access continue.

- Commissioning of an onsite concrete batch plant has also occurred. The batch plant now provides a reliable concrete supply critical for the production of the counterfort units.
- Work is currently progressing to construct the 640 tonne counterfort units in anticipation of the commencement of installing the first counterfort units within the dredged trench. Installation of the 216 units is scheduled to occur at a rate of one counterfort per day when full production is achieved.
- Concrete pour for the first counterfort base structure was conducted on 27 March 2009 with twenty two bases now completed, while the concrete pour for the first counterfort wall structure was conducted on 1 May 2009 with six walls now completed. The first counterfort unit is programmed for completion mid June 2009.
- Construction of the 3,000 tonne Brotherson Dock transition structures to allow the newly constructed counterfort units to seamlessly attach to the existing seawall are close to completion.
- The Mill Stream Groyne structure, which will offer protection to the beach and Mill Stream outlet from wind and wave action, is close to completion.

Environment

Description of environment works

More than 100 planning conditions have been imposed for the PBE to protect the Bay's environmental health and the amenity for local residents. As part of the expansion project:

- Saltmarsh habitat will be expanded to 3.5 hectares and existing intertidal sand and mudflats will be expanded to approximately 14 hectares. These areas will provide additional bird habitat and help attract migratory birds.
- The seagrass habitat will also be increased to approximately 6.5 hectares to attract additional fish and marine life.
- As part of the consent conditions, a comprehensive estuary flushing plan has been developed to ensure the ongoing health of the estuary. Water channelling devices will ensure enhanced flushing; a program will monitor water quality and flushing characteristics of the Estuary both pre- and post-construction.

Progress on Environmental enhancement works at Penrhyn Estuary Habitat

Rehabilitation and restoration of Penrhyn Estuary commenced at the end of the exclusion period on 1 April 2009 with recontouring of the existing sand dunes to create 14 hectares of new intertidal shore bird habitat. To date approximately 100,000 cubic meters of sand has been moved, 2 new bird roosting islands created and a special mix of seagrass wrack and topsoil added as the top 150mm substrate. This special substrate will encourage and promote colonisation by benthic organisms which are feed upon by the shore birds.

Overall Project Programme

The project is on programme for completion of the D&C works by March 2011, and completion of other associated works as required for the operation of the T3 terminal.

Community

Sydney Ports Corporation established the PBE Community Consultative Committee (CCC) in August 2006 to work closely with community members during the construction of the project. The PBE CCC last met on May 6 which included an on-site inspection of the project. Minutes of the PBE CCC are available at:

http://www.sydneyports.com.au/port_development/port_botany_expansion_project/community/committee_minutes_and_presentations

J.J. Cahill Memorial High School Gymnasium/Hall

As part of its community contribution, Sydney Ports will make a \$3 million community enhancement contribution towards construction of a new gymnasium at J.J. Cahill Memorial High School at Mascot. The Department of Education has conducted a tender process and awarded the contract for construction which will be overseen by the Department of Commerce.

The construction program is expected to take nine months with the gym being available for use in week 2 of Term 1 of 2010. Works include the design development, documentation and construction of a new Gymnasium inclusive of a Performance Workshop, Performance Store, Practice/Seminar room, Weights room and Store rooms.

Sydney Ports has negotiated with the Department of Education to ensure that the gymnasium will be available to the local community outside of school hours for public meetings and community activities.