

Minutes of a Meeting of the**SYDNEY PORTS CARGO FACILITATION COMMITTEE (No.08/2009)****Ground Floor Meeting Room of Moores Warehouse at Sydney Ports Corporation****Tuesday, 18th August 2009 11:00am****PRESENT:**

Mr Hart Krtschil	Chairman
Mr Brian Bourke	Australian Customs Service
Mr Lakhwinder Brar	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
Mr Steve Tonkin	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
Mr John Preston	Australian Trucking Association NSW
Mr Paul Zalai	Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia
Mr Ben Hanley	DP World
Mr Claude Varnier	Patrick Port Logistics
Mr Nicholas Angelos	RailCorp
Mr Andrew Karas	Shipping Australia Limited
Mr Mark Deacon	Sydney Ports Corporation
Mr Micah Clark	Sydney Ports Corporation
Mr Spencer Palfreeman	Sydney Ports Corporation

APOLOGIES:

Mr Elton McKay	Australian Federation of International Forwarders
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 Mick Egan	Patrick Terminals
Mr Sam Crosby	Transport Workers Union
Ms Jenny Jones	Sydney Ports Corporation
Mr Lachlan Benson	Sydney Ports Corporation

1. APOLOGIES AND MEMBERSHIP

Apologies were accepted from Mr Mckay, Mr McKay, Mr Moylan, Mr Wood, Sgt Crelley, Mr Egan, Mr Crosby, Ms Jones and Mr Benson.

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of meeting No. 07/2009, held on Tuesday, 21st July 2009, were confirmed by members with the following amendment;

1. Empty Container Parks

Mr Varnier advised members the overall empty container storage level for 20th July 2009 for all was at 63.3%. **Also that there had been an addition in Parks capacity through POTA LINK and that there are 4,000 more 40's units, in the parks, than this time last month and this time last year.**

Some shipping lines are discussing bringing in empty loaders and/or increasing tonnage. Further details on empty container storage levels for July 2009 are attached to these minutes.

3. MATTER ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Action Item 07/2009-01: Mr Webb and Mr Egan to provide feed-back to members on the time slot availability for road operators.

Mr Hanley informed members that the allocated number of slots for road operators can still be viewed through the eports system. Mr Preston advised that some road carriers no longer use eports and do not have access to this information. Mr Hanley advised that he will review what time slot availability information is currently being provided and inform the secretariat.

Action Item 07/2009-02: Mr Krtschil and Sydney Ports Corporation to approach Patrick stevedore to request regular data on truck turn-around times for circulation to all members.

Mr Palfreeman informed members that Patrick will discuss the publication of regular data on truck turn-around times when Emmanuel Papagiannakis returns from leave. Mr Zalai explained the importance of this data to CBFCA members in understanding congestion delays at the terminal. Mr Palfreeman reminded members that a Daily Terminal Operational Report is still being produced for DP World. The report can be located through the following link;

http://www.sydneyports.com.au/port_development/landside_improvement/performance_reports/daily_terminal_operational_reports

Action Item 07/2009-03: Discussion between Sydney Ports and SPCFC's members to agree on a date for a briefing on the new dangerous goods category.

Mr Palfreeman informed members that the Yellow Line cargo category for dangerous good has not yet been finalised. Members will be informed when the new category is to be implemented. David Taylor, Manager Dangerous Goods, Sydney Ports will be invited to brief the committee prior to implementation.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Port Position

Mr Palfreeman advised members that the monthly container throughput figure for July 2009 was 149,100 TEUs, 34,900 TEUs being empty and 114,200 TEUs full. This represents a variance of negative 27,535 TEUs from the same month of the previous year. A breakdown of the July 2009 throughput is as follows;

Jul-09	Import	Export	Total
Full	75,200	39,000	114,200
Empty	2,500	32,400	34,900
Total	77,700	71,400	149,100

B. Port Developments

Mr Clark gave members an update on the Port Botany Landside Improvement Strategy (PBLIS). It was advised that;

- A final draft of the Operational Performance Management framework had been tabled to PBLIS members.
- Numerous submissions had been received on Peak Period Pricing (PPP) and given to the Ministers office. Submissions dominantly revolved around the quantum of the proposed PPP, MT Park operating hours and levying the PPP on the beneficial cargo owner rather than the carrier.
- Discussions on data provisions have continued between SPC and the stevedores and may have to be resolved through ACCC authorisation or a regulatory framework.
- Access Economics have been tasked with preparing a Cost Benefit Analysis on the PBIS solution.

Mr Palfreeman advised the operator for the third terminal at Port Botany is expected to be announced by Sydney Ports in the coming weeks.

C. Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS)

Mr Brar informed members that 49,759 containers had been inspected for the month of July 2009, an increase of 6,295 containers from the previous month. The level of contamination rate (which necessitates off site cleaning of containers) remains less than 1%. Mr Krtschil informed members that an AQIS meeting will be held next week to discuss issued regarding the cleaning for containers on rail. Mr Tonkin advised that the delivery location will be a determining factor if a container is to be cleaned.

D. Australian Customs Service (ACS)

Mr Bourke informed members that the Integrated Cargo System (ICS) Import Lines were at 74,010 in July 2009, an increase of 8,694 from the previous month.

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

- New South Wales 92%
- Victoria 92%
- Queensland 92%
- West Australia 96%
- 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 August 2009.

F. Road Transport

Mr Deacon informed members that vehicles, both trucks and cars have been observed in excess of the signed speed limits within the port precinct. A review into the driving speeding in the port precinct will be undertaken by Sydney Ports.

G. Rail Transport

Mr Angelos provided members with the most updated RailCorp's major track possession's information that will impact Sydney Ports. Details of these possessions can be found attached to these minutes.

Mr Hanley informed members that due to civil works, DP World was only operating one rail line for the week ending Sunday 16th August 2009. All lines are now operational.

H. Empty Container Parks

Mr Varnier advised members the overall empty container storage level for 17th August 2009 was at 66.6%. Members were informed that there had been an increase of over 1,000 more 40' containers from the previous month. As import volumes for July 2009 outweighed exports by over 7,000 TEU it is expected that the capacity figures at empty parks will increase. Some shipping lines are discussing bringing in empty loaders and/or increasing tonnage to increase the evacuation of empty containers. Further details on empty container storage levels for July 2009 are attached to these minutes.

Mr Varnier informed members that recommendations from the Merick Report on Empty Parks includes extended park operating hours to include opening 2 hours earlier and 4 hours later than current practices. The Report also suggested that this be trialled over a one year period with some form of compensation for the empty parks. Park managers and owners were willing to participate in the proposed trials if there is appropriate compensation or subsidies. It was noted that park operations can have an effect on carrier performance at stevedoring terminals thus being an integral part of the PBLIS initiative. Mr Varnier noted that extended park hours may still not be utilised with the potential change of road carriers' scheduling port trips to off-peak time.

Mr Clark advised members that Sydney Ports has submitted its response to the Merick Report. A key note of the SPC submission is the source of funds to subsidise empty container parks.

Mr Preston informed members that MCS Banksmeadow was experiencing delays due to a forklift outage Thursday 20th August 2009. Members noted that empty parks had been proactive with their communication of delays to industry through 1-Stop contingency notices. Mr Varnier informed members that MCS Banksmeadow had also redirected boxes due to congestion at the park.

I. Electronic Cargo Release

Mr Hanley informed members that there have been issues regarding DP World's internal container release not being shown 1-Stop preventing road carriers to utilise the Autogate system. This problem is expected to be rectified before the end of the week.

J. Dangerous Goods

No dangerous goods issues were raised by members for August 2009.

K. Port Plan for Peak Periods

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

TW Action Item 1: Road Carriers & Sydney Ports to meet separately with Stevedores on a regular basis to resolve day-to-day landside issues

Mr Krtschil reminded members of the success of the meetings between the parties leading up to, and in the previous peak period. Members supported maintaining these meeting for the 2009 peak period.

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

Mr Varnier advised members that the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has been investigating the ability for port road bridges to support super-B Double trucks. The RTA will be conducting deflection testing to assess the quality of the pavements.

TW Action Item 3: Keep industry informed on the planned extension of Hale Street Botany to an intersection with Foreshore Road

Mr Deacon informed members that the Hale Street extension to Foreshore Road has been approved. The extension will allow for extended hours of B-Double truck movements in and out of the Port Air Estate.

TW Action Item 4: Monitor introduction/uptake, compliance and communication with technologic enhancements to operational systems

Members discussed a variety of technological enhancements to operational systems. Members decided that any communications should be sent to the secretariat for distribution to members.

TW Action Item 5: Minimum cut-off notice of importers' containers to be transferred by rail

Mr Krtschil noted that if shipping lines are not informed that a container is destined for rail in a timely period then issues arise when attempting to get the respective containers on rail. Mr Hanley suggested that shipping lines do not wish to have the responsibility in tagging containers for rail, but rather desire the process to be conducted directly between the importer and the stevedore.

Members enquired into the stevedores' IT capabilities in tagging containers for rail and the lead time required for effective container movements. Mr Hanley advised that DP World is currently reviewing the scope of their IT to support this practice and devising solutions.

TW Action Update 5-01: Patrick and DP World to provide the secretariat with their processes for tagging import containers for rail.**TW Action Item 11: Empty container parks – EDI interfaces with industry**

Mr Zalai informed members that 1-Stop has an EDI interface solution which can be made available with the appropriate data collection. Tradegate has also been working on data collection and an interface solution. Mr Preston advised that a Tradegate solution for empty container parks presented to industry was deemed too complex for road carriers' requirements.

TW Action Update 11-01: Mr Krtschil to enquire into the utilisation of 1-Stop solutions by empty container parks.**TW Action Item 12: Container Detention issues including timeframe available to “de-hire” containers during the Christmas and New Year holiday period**

Mr Zalai informed members that he had contacted Mr Peter Creeden, Chairman of the NSW State Committee Shipping Australia Limited, regarding shipping line policies on the de-hire of containers.

Mr Creeden advised that due to privacy issues container detention issues have to be dealt with on an individual basis with shipping lines.

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

Mr Varnier informed members that there is a shortage of 20' containers in circulation, which are required for regional exports. Regional exports volumes are strengthening and more 20' containers will be required to meet the volume. It was suggested that this issue be championed as an industry wide issue as it requires several links in the supply chain to facilitate the movement of containers. Mr Tonkin advised that he will investigate what regional volumes are expected to be containerised and bulk for the upcoming peak season.

TW Action Update 14-01: Mr Tonkin to inform the committee on the expected volumes for containerised and bulk regional exports for the 2009 peak season.

5. REPORTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

No reports by committee members for August 2009.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business for August 2009.

7. NEXT MEETING

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