

Banksia Street Botany Pedestrian Bridge Over Freight Rail Line **Questions & Answers**

As part of the Port Botany Container Terminal Expansion Project Sydney Ports Corporation will be replacing the current pedestrian crossing of the rail line at Banksia Street with an elevated pedestrian bridge.

26 September 2009

Questions & Answers

Q. Why is a pedestrian bridge being built?

A. During public exhibition stage of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Port Botany Expansion project, the local community raised issues regarding safety and amenity for residents along the Port Botany freight rail line. Currently, pedestrians are required to cross the freight line via a pedestrian rail crossing that operates without warning lights or barriers.

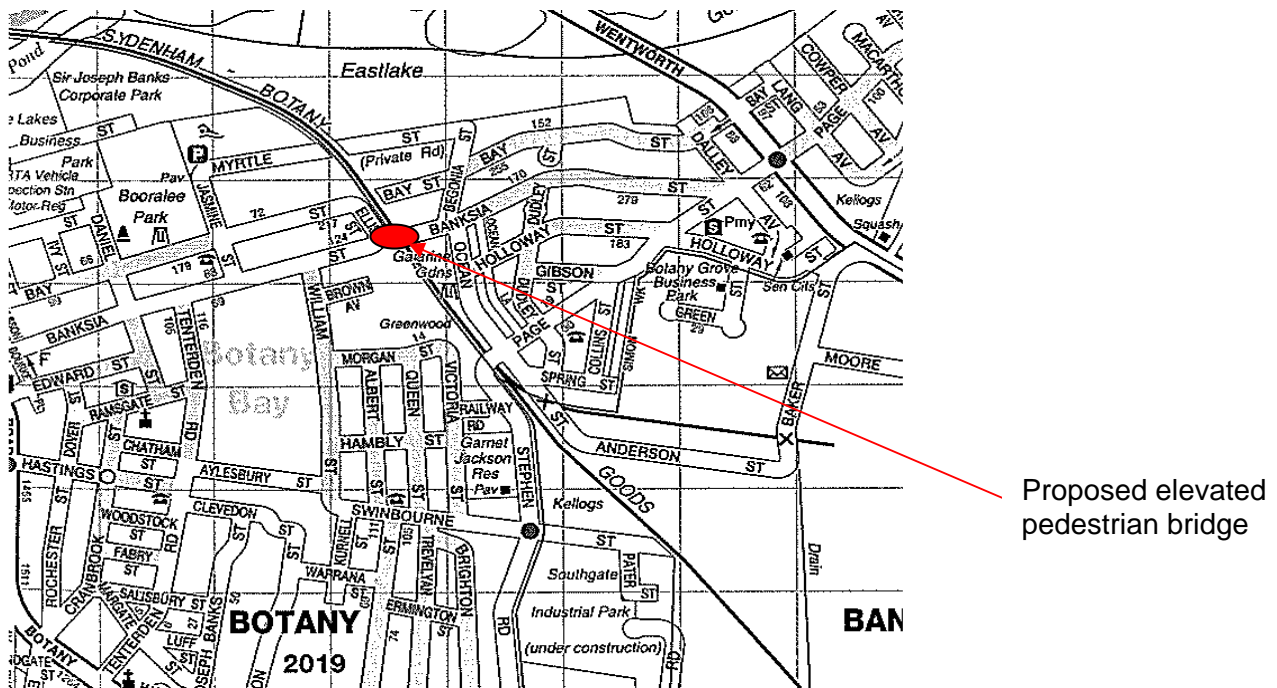
The Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) has approval for 24/7 operations of freight trains along this rail line. In accordance with safety requirements, freight trains at present approaching the Banksia Street rail crossing, from both directions, are required to sound their horns, regardless of time of day or night.

As a result of the feedback during the consultation process for the project, Sydney Ports Corporation will be providing an elevated crossing over the existing Banksia Street level crossing. Removal of the level crossing and replacement with an elevated bridge will provide improved safety for pedestrians and increased amenity for local residents and the community.

The construction of the pedestrian bridge was approved by the NSW Minister for Planning as part of the Port Botany Expansion Development Approval.

Q. Where is the pedestrian bridge located?

A. The pedestrian bridge will be located over the existing rail pedestrian crossing at the end of Banksia Street Botany. It will provide a safer journey for pedestrians linking between Botany and Pagewood.



Q. Will there be increased rail traffic as a result of the Port Botany Expansion?

A. The Port Botany Container Terminal Expansion will facilitate growth in container trade and growth in the transportation of goods via rail well into the future. Sydney Ports Corporation is working towards achieving a 40% rail mode share, an objective set by the NSW Government. As such, the frequency of train traffic will increase. The elevated bridge will help minimise disruption to local residents as the practice of sounding freight horns on approach to Banksia Street will be discontinued. In addition, an elevated pedestrian bridge will address safety issues associated with pedestrians crossing the Port Botany Goods Line.

Q. Who is funding the construction of the pedestrian bridge?

A. Sydney Ports Corporation is funding the design and construction of the bridge as part of its overall Port Botany Expansion budget.

Q. What will the pedestrian bridge look like? Were there any design requirements?

A. A photomontage of the bridge is attached. The bridge will be of concrete and steel construction with the handrail and screen painted either green or grey in colour.

Users will be able to access the bridge either by stairs or ramps. Gradients and rest landings comply with access and mobility requirements, so the bridge is completely accessible for less mobile users. A cage over the bridge was required to prevent stone-throwing onto trains and also to prevent climbing over the bridge. Lighting is in place for the length of the bridge and also meets the requirements set by the Australian standards for this type of use.

Q. How high will the pedestrian bridge be?

A. Height of the bridge at its maximum is 5.2 m above the railway to the underside of the bridge with an overall height to the top of the cage being 8.7m.

Q. Who designed the pedestrian bridge?

A. The pedestrian bridge is being designed by Aecom (formerly Maunsell's, an Australian engineering consulting firm) based on the contract specification provided Sydney Ports Corporation. The bridge has a 50-year design life. The span, to accommodate an additional rail track in the future and height were determined by requirements set out by Railcorp/ARTC.

Q. Can I ride my bike, on the pedestrian bridge?

A. No. Cyclists will be prohibited from riding on the bridge as bicycles must be dismounted and pushed over. However, the bridge will be accessible to wheel chairs and motorised people movers.

Q. How will the pedestrian bridge be built?

A. The bridge will be made of reinforced concrete and steel construction. The foundations (footings) will be cast on site with the elevated bridge structure being mainly reinforced concrete beams, cast elsewhere, transported to site and lifted into position.

Q. Will the construction of the pedestrian bridge affect rail flows out of Port Botany?

A. The beams will be lifted into position over the rail line. There may need to be some limited night works when placing the beams.

Q. Will there be any environmental impacts during construction of the pedestrian bridge?

A. There may be some minor noise from the construction activities but that will normally be between 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays. The construction site will be carefully monitored, and residents in the area will be advised of the start of the works and possible impacts. Due to the use of the rail lines some of the works will need to be undertaken outside these hours. The works will require an Environment Protection Licence from the Department of Environment Climate Change and Water. This Licence will specify the hours of works including any exceptions and associated conditions.

Q. How long will it take to build the bridge?

A. Approximately 6 months from commencement.

Q. Will access be maintained during construction?

A. Yes. However, there will be occasions when access will be limited and these will be advertised prior to the event

Q. When will the bridge be finished?

A. The bridge will be completed by early 2011 as part of the construction of the Port Botany Container Terminal Expansion footprint.

Q. How do I find out more about the construction phase of the Project?

For further information contact the project via:

Web: www.sydneyports.com.au

Email: enquiries@sydneyports.com.au

Telephone: Sydney Ports Corporation Project Information Line: (02) 9392 3300

BANKSIA STREET (EAST) BOTANY – LOOKING WEST



ELLIS STREET BOTANY - LOOKING SOUTH



BANKSIA STREET (WEST) BOTANY – LOOKING EAST

