

Minutes of a Meeting of the

SYDNEY PORTS CARGO FACILITATION COMMITTEE (No.12/2009)

Ground Floor Meeting Room of Moores Warehouse at Sydney Ports Corporation

Tuesday 15th December 2009 11:00am

PRESENT:

Mr Hart Krtschil	Chairman
Mr Thomas Hansen	Australian Federation of International Forwarders
Mr Michael Moylan	Australian Trucking Association NSW
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 Greg Dougall	Patrick
Mr Mick Egan	Patrick
Mr Claude Varnier	Patrick Port Logistics
Ms Helen Bellette	Transport Workers Union
Mr Andrew Karas	Shipping Australia Limited
Mr Allan Flynn	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 Nicholas Angelos	RailCorp
Ms Jenny Jones	Sydney Ports Corporation

1. APOLOGIES AND MEMBERSHIP

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

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of meeting No. 11/2009, held on Tuesday, 17th November 2009, were confirmed by members.

3. MATTER ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

Documents were distributed to members by the secretariat.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Port Position

Mr Palfreeman advised members that the monthly container throughput figure for November 2009 was 180,610 TEUs, 58,040 TEUs being empty and 122,570 TEUs full. This represents a variance of 11,895 TEUs from the same month of the previous year. It was noted that this was the highest monthly throughput figure recording at Port Botany. Further analysis can be found in the Sydney Ports Monthly Trade Bulletin; http://www.sydneyports.com.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/11827/November_trade_stats_bulletin_2009.pdf. A breakdown of the November 2009 throughput is as follows;

Nov-09	Import	Export	Total
Full	86,270	36,300	122,570
Empty	1,740	56,300	58,040
Total	88,010	92,600	180,610

*Values are rounded (TEUs)

Nov-09		Import	Export	Total
Full	20' Containers	28,980	16,810	45,790
	40' Containers	29,150	9,960	39,110
Empty	20' Containers	1,030	14,300	15,330
	40' Containers	330	21,000	21,330
	Total	59,490	62,070	121,560

*Values are rounded (Containers)

B. Port Developments

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 Krtschil noted suggested that Sydney Ports will be required to consult with government organisations such as Customs and AQIS for the efficient utilisation of the ILC.

Mr Deacon advised that the tender process for an operator for the third terminal is still being conducted and an announcement is expected in the coming weeks.

Ms Bellette read the Request for Amenities for Seafarer on behalf of the Sydney Port Welfare Committee. Key requests included toilets, telephones, vending machines, sitting room and internet access. The secretariat will distribute a copy of the letter to members. Mr Ripka advised members that he was aware of the requests and that they will be taken into account with the Port Botany Landside Reforms.

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 the revision of the external container inspection regime is waiting upon ministerial approval. Mr Krtschil advised that there were minimal complaints throughout the consultation period.

Mr Krtschil advised members that AQIS is working with Pupa New Guinean quarantine to clean container in Pupa New Guinea prior to positioning them on ships to prevent the requirement of cleaning in Australia.

Mr Krtschil enquired if any members had any comments or queries regarding the new fumigation requirements tabled in the November 2009 meeting. 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.

D. Australian Customs Service (ACS)

Mr Zalai informed members that there have been changes to the way Customs measure infringements. Penalties will now be measured based on actual time of arrival instead of the old practice of expected time of arrival.

E. Industrial Issues

No industrial issues for December 2009.

F. Road Transport

Mr Moylan informed members that when road carriers utilise opportunities to pick up containers early it can result in a no show penalty for the slot which was originally booked. Mr Dougall advised that Patrick will work with the road carriers to rectify this problem.

Mr Moylan advised that there have been incidents where trucks conducting stack runs interfere with the normal R&D carriers. An incident was highlighted on the 3rd of December. Mr Egan noted that the root cause of the problem needs to be examined and that there was more involved in the situation than these two operations.

Ms Bellette thanks Sydney Ports for the water provided to truck drivers on the 20th November 2009 when congestion was experienced at DP World. Mr Bellette noted that more effort is required by the stevedores when long delays are experienced including the provision of water and amenities for truck drivers. Mr Moylan advised that concerns are foremost on the health and safety of truck drivers especially during high temperatures. Mr Hanley informed members that DP World is actively looking to work with industry to resolve issues which occur outside the terminal gates.

Mr Moylan informed members that in a majority of cases road carriers are first informed of terminal delays by truck drivers. Mr Krtschil noted that over the past year communication and notifications have improved substantially, however the

contingencies which were devised last year should still be followed. Members agreed that the contingencies should still be followed. Mr Zalai suggested that alternative arrangements or actions be devised as part of the contingencies so that the Port can continue to function during times of unforeseen events. Mr Moylan suggested that the best action during times of heavy congestion was to cancel later slots and attempt to honour current slots. Members noted that creating contingencies for individual events would make the industry inflexible. Mr Palfreeman suggested that efficiency could be gained by having alternative operations during times of unforeseen events so that R&D operations could continue.

Mr Ripka informed members that toilet facilities are being installed on Simblist Road for truck drivers.

G. Rail Transport

Mr Ripka informed members that the completion date for the construction of the Southern Sydney Freight Line has been extended one year.

Mr Egan advised members that Patrick is promoting rail operators to increase the movements of boxes out of the port by rail. Mr Dougall noted that Patrick is expecting large volumes of import boxes leading up to the New Year.

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

H. Empty Container Parks

Mr Varnier informed members that 56,000 empty containers had been evacuated throughout November, 4,000 more TEU than the 52,000 required per month to keep empty container park capacity at an efficient level. Empty container parks operational capacity is currently at 76.5%. It was noted that empty sweepers had been coming into Port Botany.

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

I. Dangerous Goods

Mr Moylan enquired if Sydney Ports is responsibly for providing approval to clear dangerous good export boxes off the wharf. Issues have risen where carriers have had to wait to pick up a DG container because the clearance time had not elapsed. Mr Palfreeman explained that the time allocated to dangerous goods is part of legislation but he will obtain further information from the Sydney Ports dangerous good team.

Action Item 12/2009-01: Mr Palfreeman to distribute information on dangerous good requirements to members.

J. Port Plan for Peak Periods

Mr Krtschil suggested that the peak period be reviewed at the January meeting. Members agreed.

5. REPORTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr Hansen informed members that a joint AFIF and CBFCFA conference will be held in Coolumb, Queensland 2010. Further information will be circulated to members

6. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed for December 2009.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Sydney Ports Cargo Facilitation Committee will be held on Tuesday, 19th January 2010. The Chairman closed the meeting at 12:15 pm.