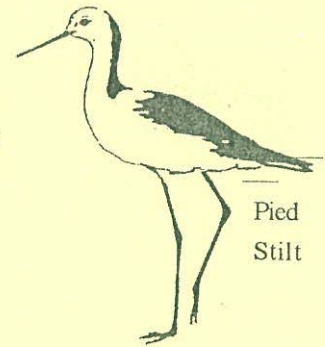
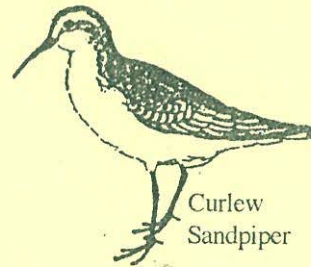
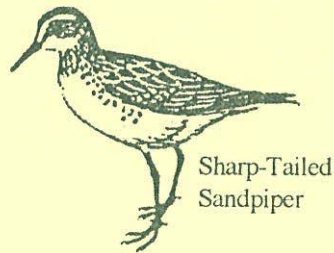
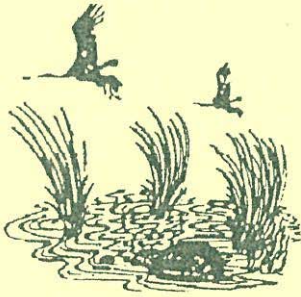


# Rockdale Wetlands Preservation Society

P O Box 146 Rockdale 2216



The Director  
Standing Committee on State Development  
Legislative Council  
Parliament house  
Macquarie Street Sydney 2000



## Inquire into Port Infrastructure in NSW

The Rockdale Wetlands Preservation Society welcomes the opportunity to make a Submission to the inquiry into Port Infrastructure, particularly into the second Term of reference.

"-The economic social and environmental impact on the state, including on the proposed Port Botany Upgrade."

Botany Bay has suffered many assaults in its environment over the last 200 years, but it remains a site of considerable environmental and conservation value and significance. RWPS is concerned that the proposed Port Botany Upgrade will involve further loss of habitat on the northern fore shore of the bay. The intertidal habitats of the Northern foreshore are important wading habitat. We would point out that Australia has obligations under international treaties to protect the habitat of migratory waders. Towra Point Nature Reserve and associated wetlands on the South side of Dolans Bay are Internationally recognised for their conservation significance by inclusion on the Ramsar list, but this does not mean that other sites in the bay are not of great importance. The north side of the bay is particularly important for smaller wader species, such as Curlew sandpiper and the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, both species which have substantially declined in Sydney region in recent decades.

We are aware that the publicity released for the proposed Port Botany upgrade emphasises, the protection of wader habitat in the Penrhyn estuary. However we, would pint out that when the 3rd runway at Kingsford Smith Airport was constructed the EIS confidently predicted that displaced waders

would relocate to the southern side of the bay. While this may have occurred for some of the larger species (such as Bar-tailed Godwit) The predictions were not met for the smaller species. In light of this history the predicted environmental mitigation measures for Port Botany needs to be examined with great care. RWPS recognises the importance of Port Botany for the economic wellbeing of the state. We also recognise the importance of maintaining the environment and biodiversity. The proposed expansion of Port Botany raises many environmental issues which need to be carefully examined. The expansion should not be seen as inevitable, and we would hope that the inquiry will emphasis the importance of ensuring that the principles of environment sustainability are paramount in the decision making process.

Special Note. The Rockdale Wetlands Corridor habitats have many of the small - wader species (Curlew Sandpiper and the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper) that is part of the flock from Port Botany.

At night they roost at Port Botany and arrive every morning during their stay in Sydney from Port Botany.

Any decline of the flock at Port Botany will have dramatic impact on the composition of the flock that use these wetlands.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ronald W Rayner". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the name.

Ronald W Rayner  
President  
12/12/03