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RE (98/S/0643)
(Contact Officer: Robyn Eisermann - 9399.0994)



23 December 2003

The Director
Standing Committee on State Development
Legislative Council
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

RE: Standing Committee Inquiry into Port Infrastructure in NSW

Randwick City Council has noted with interest the Standing Committee's inquiry into Port Infrastructure in NSW and in particular the second and fourth terms of reference for the inquiry:

- *"the economic, social and environmental impact on the State, including on the proposed Port Botany upgrade", and*
- *"current and future infrastructure needs and social impacts including with respect to the adequacy of existing road and rail infrastructure".*

Randwick City Council, as a member of SSROC has received a copy of their submission and endorses the issues raised in its submission.

Randwick Council recognises and supports the importance of the role of Port Botany both locally and regionally. A significant proportion of the Port is located in Randwick City, and an adjacent industrial zone provides a buffer to Port activities.

Randwick Council continues to responsibly manage the strategic and development planning of the Port and surrounding areas. Of note Council has recently approved the new Customs X-ray facility and has been an actively involved in the Advisory Committee for the Draft Botany Bay Strategy, the Orca Committee and the Port Consultative Group.

Council also supports the development of a long term strategy, or "growth plan", for all NSW Ports and for the role of Sydney and Botany Bay Ports to be clarified. The recently announced growth plan by the State Government should be able to inform the Port expansion decision on key issues such as road and rail freight implications; existing infrastructure implications; support services and affordable housing for the employees; health and social impacts; and environmental impacts. A long term strategy for the future of the Port Botany area is considered a positive step in future planning for the Port and surrounding areas and is a key consideration in the proposed Port expansion and the accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Council considers, therefore, that it is important to have the opportunity to consider

the Growth plan in conjunction with the expansion EIS and prior to the determination of the Port Botany expansion proposal.

It is our understanding that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed expansion of Port Botany has been lodged with DIPNR and will be on public exhibition in early 2004, at which time Council shall make a submission.

Randwick Council is supportive of the proposed future Commission of Inquiry for this proposal, which will lead to a more informed analysis and decision making process on the critical issue of planning and managing Port Botany and the State's port resources.

Council would appreciate being notified of the timing of the committee's investigations and outcomes. For further information please contact Robyn Eisermann on 9399 0994.

Yours faithfully,



Gordon Messiter,
General Manager

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