

**SUBMISSION**  
**TO THE**  
**INQUIRY ON PORTS INFRASTRUCTURE IN NSW**

by

**St George Greens**

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## Introduction

The St George Greens is a community organisation that promotes the principles of social justice, grassroots democracy, environmental sustainability, and peace and non-violence within the local government areas of Rockdale, Kogarah and Hurstville.

This submission addresses the concerns of our members in relation to the proposed expansion of Port Botany.

## Issues

Botany Bay, despite the onslaught of industry and major development for well over one hundred years, remains an area of cultural and environmental significance.

The sustainability of Botany Bay is threatened. Water quality will be dramatically impacted by any seeping of the toxic plume (from contamination of the Botany aquifer) that is currently spreading towards the Bay at the rate of 120 metres per year. Dredging of the bottom of the Bay must not be permitted. We implore the Committee to apply a precautionary principle in relation to the risk of disturbing this contamination.

Sensitive ecosystems within Botany Bay are already suffering from the effects of previous reclamation and development: namely, the Ramsar-listed Towra Point and the migratory bird habitat of Penrhyn Estuary. Rockdale City Council is required to pay over \$1,000,000 towards restoration of Lady Robinson's Beach and sea-grass beds. This financial burden on ratepayers is a consequence of the development extending into the Bay; being the existing Port, the second airport runway and the third runway. Reclamation of a further 55 – 60 hectares in the Bay will result in an ongoing debt to Rockdale

ratepayers as they are required to protect and restore over seven kilometres of coastline from Kyeemagh to Sans Souci.

Residents living the St George region – as well as Botany residents – will unfairly receive a large proportion of the noise and exhaust pollution from the expected increase in semi-trailer traffic due to any expansion of Port Botany. This is additional to the existing heavy toll of noise pollution from Sydney Airport and exhaust pollution from the unfiltered M5 East tunnel.

The St George Greens support the alternative of directing the increased container freight to Port Kembla and Newcastle. Benefits of this option include an employment boost to areas most in need, particularly Wollongong, which has one of the highest levels of unemployment nationally.

## Conclusion

The St George Greens would be pleased to make a presentation to the Committee in relation to our submission. Our convenor, Lesa de Leau, can be contacted on (m) 0413581603 or (h) 9593 2675 or (e) [lesadeleau@yahoo.com.au](mailto:lesadeleau@yahoo.com.au).