

15 October 2025

Our Ref: SSI-2025/1
Our Contact: Robert McKinlay (02) 9366 3724

Nick Hearfield
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Mr Hearfield,

RE: Response to Request for Advice – Environmental Impact Statement: Port Botany Quayline Equalisation SSI-79878464 EXH-94571224

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed quayline extension on the southern side of Brotherson Dock.

It is noted that while the project will take place primarily on land within the Randwick LGA, the dredging and land reclamation work would affect Botany Bay, within the Bayside LGA.

Response to Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)

Council notes that NSW Ports (the applicant) had previously contacted the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) to request Project-Specific SEARs for a State Significant Infrastructure Application (SSIA).

Bayside Council previously provided a response to the SEARs on 24 February 2025, which identified the following areas of concern to be addressed in the EIS:

- Coastal Process – particularly adverse impacts on Lady Robinsons Beach.
- Aboriginal cultural values
- Migratory birds and shorebirds
- Seagrass and marine mammals, including endangered seahorses
- Potential positive contributions to biodiversity
- Potential for land contamination
- Acid Sulfate Soils
- Traffic Impacts

The Proposal

Bayside Council was notified of the EIS for SSI-79878464 by email from the Major Projects Planning Portal on 19 September 2025. The application proposes:

Postal address

PO Box 21, Rockdale NSW 2216
ABN 80 690 785 443

Bayside Customer Service Centres

Rockdale Library, 444-446 Princes Highway, Rockdale
Westfield Eastgardens, 152 Bunnerong Road, Eastgardens

E council@bayside.nsw.gov.au

W www.bayside.nsw.gov.au

T 1300 581 299 | 02 9562 1666

- *Construction of an extended quayline (BD12) on the southern side of Brotherson Dock, including dredging of the Brotherson Dock channel and berths to provide material for reclamation of land. This would provide:*
 - *Extension of the southern side of the Brotherson Dock quayline by around 314 metres to provide a combined quayline length on the southern side of Brotherson Dock of around 1,250 metres to accommodate up to three longer container vessels, commensurate with the quayline length available to stevedore operators in other parts of the port*
 - *An additional 5.3 hectares of wharf area (wharf hardstand)*
- *Consequential changes to the bulk liquids berths at the port, including demolition of the existing Bulk Liquids Berth 1 (BLB1), construction and operation of a new Bulk Liquids Berth (BLB3) in a more southerly location, and associated changes to pipework and bulk liquids handling infrastructure within the port. The types and volumes of bulk liquids would remain unchanged.*

Council's Submission

Council has reviewed the submitted documentation and raises several matters for the proponent to address, below. These matters may relate to concerns about a lack of information, or opportunities for the project to have a positive environmental benefit.

1. Coastal Processes

It is acknowledged that the EIS is supported by a Hydrodynamic, Flushing, Dredging Spill and Coastal Processes assessment prepared for NSW Ports by DHI Water & Environment Pty Ltd. This assessment is further supplemented with a peer-review by Manly Hydraulic Laboratory. The assessment concludes:

- *Any impact to shoreline morphology would be the result of changes to sand supply, hydrodynamic conditions or wave exposure. The proposed project will clearly not affect sand supply to any adjacent shoreline. Differential analysis reported in Section 6.3 demonstrate convincingly that the project will not meaningfully alter water level or current conditions along any of the active shorelines.*
- *Swell waves will be unaffected within the bay with the exception of within Brotherson Dock itself, which is already extremely well sheltered from swell exposure. Differential analysis reported in Section 6.4 demonstrated that changes in locally generated wave exposure will be at an insignificant level along the southern shorelines of Botany Bay, and zero along the rest of the bay frontage.*
- *The existing balance of wave and hydrodynamic acting upon the shorelines around Botany Bay will be unchanged by the PBQEP project. This conclusion will not change under the considered +84cm SLR scenario. Climate change will affect the existing balance of forces acting on the bay shorelines, but the presence of the PBQEP project will not modify such changes.*

Consequently, Council's concerns in relation to the project's impacts on coastal processes have broadly been allayed. However, to ensure there are no adverse impacts on Lady Robinsons Beach Foreshore and/or other shorelines in Botany Bay, the applicant is requested to monitor the bay shorelines during and post-works to ensure the proposal causes no erosion.

Council's Engineers note further opportunities for the project's dredged material to be used to combat ongoing foreshore erosion challenges around the Bay, specifically:

- *If there is any excess dredged material surplus to the land reclamation and if it is suitable (Free of contaminants and compatible to the existing sand grain size) supply and place it along the Foreshore Beach near the Boat Ramp Facility which is experiencing ongoing beach erosion.*
- *If there is still more excess sand supply and place it on the Beach at Brighton Le Sands between President Avenue and Teralba Road. Again, this is subject to the dredged material being free of contaminants and being compatible to the existing beach sand grain size.*

Bayside Council would therefore welcome discussion with NSW Ports in relation to the above.

2. Contaminated Land & Acid Sulfate Soils

Council's Contamination Officer has reviewed the EIS and its accompanying Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI) and the Interim Audit Advice letter (IAA). They concur with the PSI and the auditor's review. No DSI is required and the identified risks can be appropriately mitigated through the Construction Environmental Management Plan and associated tasks. If the Acid Sulfate Soils (ASS) assessment identifies a risk of disturbing actual/potential ASS, then an ASS Management Plan will be required.

3. Environment

Council's Environment and Resilience team has reviewed the EIS and its accompanying studies. They make the following requests of the project during and post construction:

- Native Couch *Cynodon dactylon*, native Weeping Grass *Microlaena stipoides* and *Juncus usitatus* are likely occur near the works area. These plants must be retained where possible.
- During works, remove the marine pest European fan worms (*Sabella spallanzanii*) from existing pile/s in the Project Area, and report any suspected observations of European fan worms (or other marine pest) to NSW DPIRD.
- Post-construction, new artificial structures, including 119 new piles at BLB3, 380 piles and associated infrastructure at BD12, and rock armouring on the outside of the containment wall bund are to be monitored for five (5) years (EIS p. 7-14) to ensure there is a net gain in artificial habitat for marine organisms such as macroalgae, barnacles, molluscs, and other sessile invertebrates.

- Sea Horses: Mitigation measure ME3, add post-disturbance habitat surveys will be conducted by a qualified marine ecologist for five (5) years in the Project area and at locations where Syngnathids are relocated to, to determine that no harm is caused. Where necessary, remedial actions should be taken to ensure that the proposal has caused no harm to Syngnathid's, e.g. install seahorse hotels artificial habitat attached to proposed new piles at BLB3 and/or BD12.

4. Community Consultation

It is also requested that NSW Ports undertake extensive and ongoing community engagement to ensure that any complaints can be addressed quickly:

- The community and stakeholder engagement carried out during construction should include updates on planned construction activities and should respond to concerns and enquiries in a timely manner, seeking to minimise potential impacts where possible. Communication tools and activities that should be used in the lead up to and during construction include:
 - Notifications regarding work outside standard working hours and work that might impact residents, businesses, local facility users and stakeholders
 - Regular community updates on the progress of the construction program
 - Meetings with key stakeholders as required
 - Traffic alerts
 - Signage around construction facilities.
- A complaints management system should be developed and implemented before construction begins. It should be maintained throughout the construction phase and for a minimum of 12 months after construction finishes. The complaints management system should include:
 - A 24-hour, seven days a week response line for complaints and enquiries
 - A postal and email address to which complaints and enquiries may be sent
 - Publication of contact details and the NSW Ports website.
- The complaints management system should receive, acknowledge, investigate, resolve, and document complaints, while also identifying opportunities for systemic improvements.
- Engagement during operation of the Project - The existing Port Botany Community Consultative Committee should continue to provide the key point of engagement contact once Project construction is complete, and the extended quay line is being used for port operations.
- Mitigation measure SE1, please add '*. This will include, at a minimum, a range of engagement methods (including options for online and physical copies of engagement materials and translation of key communication materials).*

5. Traffic

Council notes the statements in the EIS that “*The facilitated development would not change the existing operational road traffic volumes to or from Port Botany*”. We request that any future development that would lead to an increase in operational road traffic volumes at the port be subject to extensive community consultation, discussion with Council and environmental assessment.

We trust that the Department will carefully consider Council’s submission when assessing this proposal.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Robert McKinlay, Senior Urban Planner on (02) 9366 3724 or via email:

Robert.McKinlay@bayside.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Smith', written in a cursive style.

David Smith
Manager Strategic Planning