



GARDEN ISLAND COMMUNITY FORUM
Thursday 26th November 2002

Notes of the Forum

The forum was held on site at Garden Island. Thirteen local residents attended the meeting. The following summarizes the presentations and general discussion.

Overview of Garden Island

Cmdr Vick McConachie provided an overview of the management and operations of Garden Island.

Overview of Garden Island initiatives

Kevin Morgan, Community Relations Manager provided a brief report on the initiatives recently undertaken by ADI and the Navy. These included:

Garden Island Hotline

In response to the issues raised by local residents during the consultation early in 2002 ADI and the Navy have established a 24hr/7 days a week Environmental Hotline. The Hotline guarantees that there will be someone available to take enquiries from local residents at any time. The report on enquiries was distributed to attendees.

Since the introduction of the GI Hotline in August 2002, 18 enquiries have been lodged registering 19 issues. The issues have related to steam/air quality(1) beeping noise (4), engine noise (2), fans (1), air conditioning unit (1) lights (4), noise (2) and other (4).

Wherever possible both ADI and the Navy have taken action to address the registered concerns, these have included modifying light shades and operation systems, stopping/relocating certain activities such as fork lift training, delaying the use of certain machinery and equipment, repairing equipment to reduce noise levels and modifying certain equipment to muffle sound wherever possible.

Site Visits

ADI and the Navy conducted a site visit for local residents on 21st October 2002. These events will continue to be organized for local residents as a means of sharing the culture and significance of the site. The visits have also assisted ADI, Navy and residents to better understand some of the concerns raised by residents. Local residents were encouraged to register, via the website, if they would like to attend a site visit.

Garden Island Website

The website was demonstrated to attendees, highlighting the Work Activities section and Home Page-both of which will continue to provide regular updates and information about activities on GI.

Public Access Area

The northern end of Garden Island has been secured and is now accessible to the general public via the wharf. Sydney Ferries, Watson Bay route will stop at Garden Island up until 4.00pm each day.

Environment Report

Navy

Cmdr Vicki McConachie provided an overview of the work the Navy is pursuing with the Environmental Management Plan (EMP). The plan is focused on flora, fauna, sites of heritage significance and water. The ultimate goal of the EMP is to improve the environment and reduce negative impacts of current practices. Examples of how this is being achieved included the change in practice for recharging submarines.

The EMP is currently not a public document, however this status may change.

Waste Treatment Plant

Defense has committed \$3m to the development of a waste treatment plant for the dry dock. This will stop leakage of any chemicals or foreign matter into the Sydney Harbor. The project will be completed by mid 2003.

ADI

Proposed New Development for the South East Dock area

ADI has contracted PPI Services to improve the handling of materials in the South East Bunded area of the dockyards. **PPI Services** presented the proposed plan for constructing a small shed in the South East Bunded area. The project consists of establishing a streamlined system for the storage and handling of materials such as diesel, paint and oil. The shed will be erected for the purpose of providing cover and a bunded (enclosed to prevent run-off) zone for the handling of these materials. The structure is expected to be approximately 20.00m x 20.00m floor space with two annexes and 7m high (at its most elevated point). The plan of the area and an outline of the proposed building were distributed for comment.

PPI Services highlighted the consideration that has been given to minimizing any impact on neighbours and how several factors have been taken into account including; the location of the structure; colour of the structure to that it blends with the existing structures, and the pitch of the roof minimises the percentage of roof that is visible from the western boundary.

The advantages of the development included improving the quality of the water discharge, having safer practices for workers, streamlining the handling of materials and improving the tidiness of the SE Bunded area.

Discussion on the proposed construction included:

- It will be important to keep local residents informed of progress. ADI agreed to place relevant material on the website and to keep locals residents informed. All plans will be made available for viewing and comment.
- Color of construction-it was suggested that the color be the same as existing buildings so as to blend into the surrounding environment

General Discussion

1. ADI highlighted how communication with the Body Corporate of each building is proving to be difficult in some cases. Attendees commented that some buildings do not use the general letter box and have a registered postal address and that ADI might try to obtain these. ADI committed to try this approach and encouraged attendees to register on the website for regular updates and to encourage other residents to do the same.
2. Attendees generally appreciated being invited to the GI Forum and commented that it is very positive to keep local residents informed about what is happening.
3. Some people commented about the difficulty they have experienced with making complaints or enquiries about Garden Island. They suggested that the GI Hotline be registered in the White Pages and promoted more widely in the community. ADI will investigate this further.

Next GI Community Forum

Notification of the next forum (mid 2003) will be sent to the Body Corporate of local residential buildings, registered residents who have attended previous ADI/Navy events and residents that have registered via the website.

ADI & RAN representatives present

Cmdr Vicki McConachie, HMAS Kuttabul, RAN; Kevin Morgan, Community Relations Manager/Garden Island Facilities Manager, ADI; Greg Foster, Environment Manager, ADI; Monica Redden, Facilitator; Peter Arnott, Simon Kinvig & Bob , PPI Services.