

Our ref: SSI-79878464

Received 10.08.2026

Mr Andrew Mills

Chair

Office of the Independent Planning Commission NSW

Suite 15.02, Level 15

135 King Street

Sydney NSW 2000

6 August 2026

Subject: Referral for Determination: Port Botany Quayline Equalisation (SSI-79878464)

Dear Mr Mills

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (the Department) has completed its assessment of the application for the Port Botany Equalisation Project (SSI-79878464).

NSW Ports (The Trustee for the Port Botany Unit Trust) is the Proponent for the application. In accordance with section 5.14 (1) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces is the approval authority for the application.

The Minister, on 14 September 2011, delegated his determination function to the Planning Assessment Commission (now Independent Planning Commission) in relation to reportable political donation applications.

As the Proponent has made a reportable political donation, the Independent Planning Commission will determine the application as the Minister's delegate.

Description of the proposed application

A 314 metre quayline extension on the southern side of Brotherson Dock, reclamation of 5.4 hectares of wharf hardstand area for container operations, dredging works within Brotherson Dock and demolition of Bulk Liquids Berth 1 (BLB1) and replacement with a new Bulk Liquids Berth 3 (BLB3) and pipelines, and the operation of BLB3.

Assessment of the application

The application was placed on the Department's website (on 24 September 2025) and notification was made to relevant public authorities and relevant councils. Advice on the proposal was received from agencies including Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group (CPHR) – NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW), Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development – Fisheries (DPIRD-Fisheries), Heritage NSW, Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW), Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and Port Authority of NSW (Ports).

Advice was also received from Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), Sydney Airport Corporation Ltd (SACL), and Bayside Council and Randwick City Council.

NSW DCCEEW-Water Group did not provide any comments.

The Department received four public submissions (three from individuals and one from a special interest group) in October 2025, and the key issues raised in the submissions included:

- contamination caused by dredging
- risk posed by the transportation of hazardous goods
- impacts on airport operations
- air quality (nuisance, dust, odours), noise and traffic impacts
- marine biodiversity impacts.

In assessing the merits of the proposed application, the Department has considered the potential environmental impacts, agency advice, relevant environmental planning instruments, the suitability of the site and the public interest, in accordance with the requirements of the EP&A Act.

Based on its assessment, the Department believes that the application is approvable, subject to recommended conditions.

I have attached a copy of the Department's assessment report, recommended instrument of approval, and other relevant documents for the Commission's consideration.

Further information about the proposal can be found on the NSW Planning Portal:

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/port-botany-quayline-equalisation>.

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure



For further information or to arrange a briefing, please contact Glenn Snow, Director Transport and Water Assessments, on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

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Douglas Walther

Executive Director

Infrastructure Assessments