

Australian Logistics Council Ltd.

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Lachlan Wood

Senior Sustainable Transport Officer

Randwick City Council

30 Frances Street

Randwick NSW 2031

Via email: [council@randwick.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@randwick.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Wood,

The Australian Logistics Council is the peak national body representing 41 major companies participating in the end-to end freight supply chain and logistics industry with a focus on delivering enhanced supply chain resilience, productivity, sustainability and awareness. Freight affects every Australian, every day, everywhere.

Common goods purchased by Australians such as food, clothing, household appliances and medicine all need to be transported by freight operators. Australia's population is expected to grow by 10 million by 2040, an increase which must be supported through proactive investment in freight transport and freight logistics infrastructure.

The Australian economy has become increasingly reliant on sophisticated, continent spanning and international supply chain networks. The freight industry serves as the backbone of the economy, facilitating the movement of raw materials, finished products, and essential supplies both within Australia and across the globe.

The supply chains are made up of a highly complex network of interconnected and interdependent parts, with each component playing an essential role in ensuring the smooth and efficient flow of goods and services from a myriad of suppliers to a myriad of end consumers.

Port Botany serves as a critical hub supporting the people and businesses of NSW, handling one-third of Australia's container volumes and a significant portion of the state's fuel supply and chemicals for domestic manufacturing. With container trade demand projected to skyrocket to over 9 million TEUs by 2063<sup>1</sup>, investments in infrastructure and terminal equipment are crucial to meet this demand. The Greater Sydney Region Plan 2018 underscores the vital role of Port Botany in maintaining a productive NSW economy and emphasizes the need to safeguard its internationally competitive operations from encroachment by sensitive uses<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> NSW Ports. *NSW Ports 2063: Our 40-year Master Plan for sustainable growth*. May 2023. Page 36. Available at: <https://www.nswports.com.au/NSWPorts-Master-Plan>

<sup>2</sup> Greater Cities Commission. *Greater Sydney Region Plan 2018*. Page 95. October 2018.

The proposed bike paths, Routes C15 and C14, passing through Port Botany, pose a direct threat to the port's operational integrity. On an average weekday, Bumborah Point Road handles approximately 6,000 movements in each direction. Approximately half of these movements are large heavy commercial vehicles. Of these large heavy commercial vehicles, two-thirds are container trucks, 9% are bulk liquid or gas tankers, and a further 15% are buses accessing the Transdev John Holland Port Botany Depot. Introducing cycling infrastructure in an area of such high freight activity contradicts the strategic imperative to prioritize and safeguard trade gateways critical to national economic security.

Furthermore, the safety implications for cyclists navigating heavy vehicle traffic within the port cannot be overstated. Given the volume and nature of freight movements, including container trucks and bulk liquid or gas tankers, cyclists would be exposed to significant risks, compromising their safety and potentially leading to accidents or fatalities.

While promoting cycling as a sustainable mode of transportation is commendable, it is imperative to prioritize the safety and efficiency of freight operations at Port Botany. Instead of introducing bike paths within the port, efforts should be directed towards developing alternative cycling routes in areas more conducive to recreational or commuter activities.

In conclusion, the ALC urge the council to reconsider the proposal for a bike path within the NSW container port and instead focus on strategies that ensure the continued competitiveness and operational integrity of Port Botany.

Kind regards

**Sheena Fardell**

Chief of Policy, Australian Logistics Council Ltd.