

Basic Detail Report



ANMS1104[391]

Title

Slide depicting a cable extending down into the hatch of a cargo ship

Date

1986-1990

Medium

35mm photographic slide, cardboard

Dimensions

Overall: 49 x 49 x 1 mm, 1 g

Name

Photographic slide

History

In 2007 the cargo handling wharves at East Darling Harbour were closed for redevelopment. The site, once called the Hungry Mile after the great queues of unemployed workers who lined the docks looking for work during the Great Depression of the 1930s, was renamed Barangaroo, after the Aboriginal man Bennelong's wife, who was associated with the area in the late 18th century. As stevedoring operations moved to ports at Port Botany and Port Kembla, the Government of New South Wales determined that the wharves at East Darling Harbour should become an extension of the Sydney CBD with a foreshore park and business and shopping precincts. The Maritime Union of Australia undertook a campaign to recognise the Hungry Mile name, as an acknowledgement of the site's historical significance to waterside workers since the first formation of a maritime workers union - the Sydney Wharf Labourers Union in 1872. After maritime workers variously began organizing trade unions during the late nineteenth century in many Australian ports, by 1902 the two largest sectors of the maritime workforce, the seamen and the wharf labourers, or 'wharfies', had established their own national trade union organisations - the Seamen's Union of Australia (SUA) and Waterside Workers' Federation (WWF). As a major cargo handling point in Sydney, the East Darling Harbour wharves were the site of significant historical activity including the 1890 and 1928 maritime strikes, bans on Japanese shipments prior to the Second World War, and bans and protests against South African apartheid and the Vietnam War. The objects here record the final phase of stevedoring operations at East Darling Harbour.