

M E D I A R E L E A S E

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STATE WIDE BENEFITS OF PORT EXPANSION

Construction companies and workers across New South Wales have reaped the rewards from the State Government's \$1 billion Port Botany Expansion project.

Ports and Waterways Minister Paul McLeay today reflected on the wider economic gains of the expansion, noting around 250 workers had been involved in the production and placement of the massive counterforts since mid 2009.

"This project has had a very real positive impact on the economy. Many of the materials used in the project have come from across the state," Mr McLeay said.

- 62,000 tonnes of gravel - from Peats Ridge and Emu Plains
- 34,000 tonnes of sand - from the Nepean and Kurnell
- 24,000 tonnes of cement - from various locations around NSW

Counterforts are giant seven storey concrete blocks which form the 1.85km new waterfront for the new terminal – enough for five new shipping berths.

The 216 counterforts were built onsite by construction contractors Boulderstone Pty Ltd at Port Botany via the use of a concrete batch plant in order to reduce the impact of trucking movements on the community

"Delivering fresh concrete to the site to construct the counterfort units would have required as many as 50 truck trips a day.

"Locating the concrete batch plant on site has cut the number of truck trips to fewer than 20 a day," Mr McLeay said.

Further information:

- The Port Botany Expansion (PBE) project will create five new shipping berths, designed to cater for long-term growth in Sydney's shipping trade.
- Once completed, each counterfort unit has been transported to a temporary wharf, taken by barge to its final location and lowered onto a compacted sand and gravel bed in order to form the new wharf wall.
- The counterfort precast yard is due to be demolished by the end of this month.
- Base construction work on the terminal will continue until the middle of 2011.
- The site will then be handed to third terminal operator Hutchison Port Holdings for fit-out, in preparation for the start of its operations in 2012.

Media Contact: Anna Burns 0438 379 784