

Media Release

TRANSPORT WORKSHOP TACKLES CHRISTMAS PEAK CAPACITY ISSUES

Tuesday 20 July 2010

The Sydney Ports Cargo Facilitation Committee (SPCFC) and Sydney Ports Corporation hosted the 8th annual Transport Workshop today.

An initiative of the SPCFC, the workshop specifically focuses on seasonality issues and possible solutions for the efficient movement of containers through Port Botany in the lead up to the Christmas peak period.

Over 70 industry participants attended this year's Transport Workshop which included senior representatives from the stevedores, the road and rail transport sector, shipping lines and empty container parks and other organisations from across the broader logistics chain.

"With container trade continuing to grow at record levels, the efficient movement of containers through Port Botany is highly dependent on the cooperation of all participants in the supply chain," Mr Gilfillan said.

"May 2010 container trade statistics show an increase of 5.6 per cent on the same period last year, so Sydney Ports has taken the lead in identifying capacity issues, ahead of the Christmas peak.

Mr Gilfillan said participants were given the opportunity to review issues raised from last year's workshop, and discuss proactive measures to be implemented to manage high seasonal demands.

"This year's workshop was a success and featured active and constructive input on recommendations to improve landside operations.

"This included the impact on road and rail from an infrastructure capacity and operational perspective, throughput volumes and indicative trends, as well as stevedore resourcing plans for the peak season.

Mr Gilfillan said Sydney Ports also took the opportunity to highlight the diminishing capacity issues facing the Empty Container Park supply chain.

"For Sydney Ports to meet the growing throughput of containers we need an industry agreed strategy to improve capacity and efficiency in our empty container parks.

"Work on developing an overarching Empty Container Park plan is well underway and being co-ordinated in conjunction with the Port Botany Landside Improvement Strategy," he said.

About the Committee

The Sydney Ports Cargo Facilitation Committee meets on a monthly basis to discuss and manage day-to-day port operations. The Committee is an important component in maintaining efficient port operations.

The membership of the Sydney Ports Cargo Facilitation Committee includes a number of industry and government representatives, including the stevedores, shipping lines, rail access providers, road transport operators, custom brokers, freight forwarders, Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, NSW Police, the Unions and Sydney Ports Corporation.
