



**Minister for Ports and Waterways
Minister for Regulatory Reform
Minister for Small Business**

MEDIA RELEASE

July 19, 2007

Trade through Sydney's ports hits record levels

Further evidence of the strength of the New South Wales economy was released today with new figures confirming that trade through Sydney's ports last financial year hit record levels, significantly outstripping forecasted figures.

Container trade through Sydney's ports has hit an all-time high with preliminary trade figures for 2006-07 showing a massive 12.0% increase over the previous year to over 1,619,000 container units[#].

"Forecasts for 2006-07 were for growth of between 4.8% and 5.6%, which are themselves great figures, but growth in container trade of 12.0% is simply outstanding", Minister for Ports and Waterways, Joe Tripodi said today.

"The NSW economy is moving ahead with trade growing at an impressive rate. Coming less than a week after strong employment figures, this is further evidence of the health of the state economy".

"This is the sixth year of significant and continuous growth in containerised trade through Sydney".

Full container exports also hit a record level of over 369,800 container units, a massive 7.1% jump. Trade of bulk liquids and gases through Sydney's ports has also risen with enormous growth of 16.7%, another record rise. Total trade measured in mass tonnes also rose by 3.4% to 27.6 million mass tonnes.

"The Lemna Government understands the critical role played by our ports in delivering growth and prosperity to the people of NSW, that's why we're well under way with plans to lock in trade growth, especially through Port Botany", Mr Tripodi said.

"We've approved a massive investment in port infrastructure through the expansion of Port Botany by adding five more shipping berths, to the existing six."

Sydney's trade is not only high, it's also diverse with chemicals, paper, machinery and equipment, waste paper and manufactured articles leading our export growth, and machinery and equipment, manufactured articles, chemicals, paper and textiles the leading imports.

"Our main trading partner continues to be China with over a quarter of all Sydney's containerised trade now flowing to and from China. Other major import sources include the US, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Thailand. Major exports destinations are New Zealand, China, Japan, Indonesia and the US.

"These end of year preliminary trade figures prove that NSW continues its strong economic performance under the sound management of the Lemna Government", said Mr Tripodi.

[#] 1,619,500 TEU's or twenty foot container