



## **Engines start on \$1 billion Port Botany Expansion**

July 24, 2008

Premier Morris Iemma today announced the start of construction on one of the largest infrastructure projects in Australia – the **\$1 billion expansion of Port Botany**.

Mr Iemma started the engines on the project which will almost **double the capacity of the Port Botany container terminal**.

“This exciting new project will see the development of **60 hectares with five new shipping berths and 1,850 metres of new wharves**,” Mr Iemma said.

“More than **2,000 jobs will be created during the project’s construction** with **9,000 permanent jobs** once the third terminal is up and running.

“It is pleasing to see years of planning now progressing into construction activity.

“The local community is also going to benefit from the extra business generated by the large workforce and activity on the site during the next couple of years.

“Port Botany is Australia’s second largest container port and trade is expected to double by 2020.

“Already **the port is a crucial hub for more than \$40 billion in trade each year**, with port-related activity **currently employing up to 10,000 people**.

“This project will see Port Botany rise to the challenge and meet the increase in demand well into the next few decades.”

Mr Iemma said with **99 per cent of Australia’s international trade transported by sea**, Sydney’s ports were pivotal to the nation’s economic future.

“Port Botany’s expansion has real impacts for the people of Sydney with **85 per cent of the trade** through the port going to a home, office or factory **within 40 km of Port Botany**,” he said.

Mr Iemma said the Baulderstone Hornibrook–Jan de Nul consortium would build the new port facility, with construction to be complete by March 2011 and the first ship expected to berth and unload its containers in early 2012.

The expressions of interest process to source a stevedore for the expanded area is also now open.

Site preparation was completed at Port Botany last week, with project offices in place, the preparation of environmental plans, hiring of staff, progression of the design and consultation with community and stakeholders continues.

Dedicated road and rail facilities will also be developed to ensure efficient access with minimal disruption to the local community.

Ports Minister Joe Tripodi said the lemma Government was committed to delivering key infrastructure to the people of NSW and at the same time minimising impact on local communities and the environment.

“Shipping is one of the most environmentally friendly transport methods for large quantities of goods in our global economy,” Mr Tripodi said.

“The construction has been carefully staged to ensure minimal interference with existing port operations.

“A **\$30 million investment in environment and community facilities** is also an integral part of delivering this expansion project.

“The community will reap the benefits of a new boat ramp, pedestrian bridge and a rejuvenated beach, while seagrass, saltmarsh and migratory shorebird habitat will benefit from environmental works.”