

TRANSPORT WORKSHOP 2009

Tuesday, 21st July 2009

12:30pm to 5:00pm

Portside Centre, Level 6, 207 Kent Street, Sydney

Introduction

Participants were welcomed to the 7th transport workshop and an outline of proceeding was given by the chairman of the Sydney Ports Cargo Facilitation Committee (SPCFC), Hart Krtschil. He thanked all those who had participated in addressing issues arising from the last Action list, which involved much time and effort by a few individuals for the benefit of the wider industry.

Mr. Krtschil noted that the most important and potentially successful change since the last workshop was the establishment of the road and rail taskforces as part of the Port Botany Logistics Improvements Strategy (PBLIS). Many long standing issues on the agenda of the SPCFC were now being resourced and addressed in a formal consultative, constructive and organised manner to facilitate permanent changes for the better.

As in previous years, the objective of the workshop was for all parties in the cargo logistics chain to identify problems and issues that either were of concern, or had the potential of impeding the smooth operations of the port and its infrastructure. To this end, parties had been invited to provide presentations that summarised their current and future positions to ensure wide awareness and support for ongoing cooperative problem-solving.

Mr. Grant Gilfillan, CEO of the Sydney Ports Corporation, provided a brief outline of the various initiatives currently underway. Mr. Gilfillan acknowledged that the good cooperation between all parties was the key to success and he invited all parties to continue to work closely together and plan for a smooth operation during the next peak period.

A number of presentations from representatives of the following industry groups, Government Agencies and Sydney Ports were given:

Shipping Australia Limited (SAL), DP World, Patrick, Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd (ARTC), Australian Transport Association (ATANSW), Empty Park operators, Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia (CBFCA), Australian Federation of International Forwarders of Australia (AFIF), AQIS, Australian Customs and Border Protection and Sydney Ports.

These presentations will be available on the SPC website soon.

Some of the issues covered in these presentations were, among others:

- Trade trends;
- the impact of the current global financial crisis on the Australian trade;
- container re-delivery re-direction;

- extension of hours of empty parks operations;
- the ongoing changes to full paperless terminal operations;
- electronic delivery orders;
- IT system improvements;
- redevelopment of the rail network and facilitation of intermodal activities;
- upcoming changes to AQIS intervention and inspection processes;
- progress of the developments in Enfield and Port Botany;
- current position of PBLIS.

Following these presentations the 50 plus participants engaged in discussions on a wide range of issues such as:

- Activities of the two PPLIS task forces;
- rail, road and MT parks;
- contingency arrangements;
- land transport operations (VBS, road, rail, intermodal);
- communication and technology impacts.

In addressing these issues the meeting looked at:

- What had been successfully undertaken in the past;
- what could be done better, and
- what still needed to be done

An action list covering the major issues that were agreed to be followed up and addressed is attached, and is available for comment through the various associations that attended the 2009 Transport Workshop.