



THE HON. JOE TRIPODI MP
MINISTER FOR FINANCE
MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
MINISTER FOR REGULATORY REFORM
MINISTER FOR PORTS AND WATERWAYS

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

Congestion charge to cut truck queues

September 17, 2008

Australia's first congestion charge will be one of the measures introduced by the Rees Labor Government following the IPART review into Port Botany.

Ports Minister Joe Tripodi said a new **Off Peak Incentive Scheme** will relieve truck congestion and increase port efficiency particularly around Port Botany.

"The Off Peak Incentive Scheme can reduce port-related traffic on Sydney roads during peak periods by making it relatively cheaper to access the port at night," Mr Tripodi said.

"Congestion and inefficiencies will be reduced when we have round-the-clock access to Port Botany.

"It will also add to the capacity of the port through the better use of existing infrastructure. This will mean savings to both industry and Government.

Mr Tripodi said international ports have introduced peak pricing agreements with significant success.

Terminal operators at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach in California have had a peak pricing system, PierPASS, for heavy trucks since 2005.

"PierPASS reduced peak congestion and increased off-peak truck movements from 10 to 40 per cent," he said.

The peak charge be set in consultation with industry and will be periodically reviewed to ensure demand matches the supply of truck slots into the port.

"Revenue generated from the peak charge will go into a Port Landside Infrastructure Fund to be spent on improving the efficiency of Port Botany's landside infrastructure," Mr Tripodi said.

Mr Tripodi said the Port Botany expansion, currently underway, will help meet the challenge of future trade growth.

Media contact: Kate Sullivan (02) 9228 5451 or 0438 719 440