

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## **Sydney Ports' Board Visits the Riverina**

Reflecting the importance of the Riverina as an exporting region, the Board of Sydney Ports Corporation will be holding their third regional Board meeting at the Griffith City Council on Friday, 10 September 2004.

The Directors will also be visiting rice, wheat and wine exporters in the area providing them with updates on the proposed Port Botany expansion, the possible re-establishment of rail links to Sydney's ports and other port related information including recent trade results.

"Sydney handled a record breaking 1.27 million TEU's\* in 2003/04, a 9.4% increase on the previous year's record. Full container exports were also up by 3.3 per cent with significant increases in containerised cereals and wheat volumes," said Greg Martin, CEO, Sydney Ports Corporation.

With over 20 international shipping lines servicing Sydney's ports all year round, there are more than 200 sailings to and from over 100 overseas destinations to the port. This, accompanied with empty container availability, high stevedoring productivity and efficient transport services makes Sydney a preferred port for exporting.

Sydney Ports is progressing plans to increase its container handling capacity at Port Botany to ensure the future needs of exporters and importers are met. The proposed expansion which will provide the required capacity to 2025, is subject to a Commission of Inquiry with hearings to commence in October.

"Currently the containerised exports shipped through Sydney's ports from the Riverina include paper, wheat, wine and meat products. Sydney Ports recognises the potential value of trade from the Riverina and is keen to increase its market share from the region. Sydney Ports is confident that the reintroduction of rail services from the Riverina to Port Botany will assist in achieving this", Mr Martin said.

"Sydney Ports continues to work closely with a range of port industry representatives to enhance all facets of the transport links to and from Port Botany and establish strategies to improve road and rail access and efficiency for all port users".

The Board of Sydney Ports has developed strong relationships with the local producers in the area over the past 6 years and will continue their efforts to ensure these relationships are maintained. Sydney Ports is an award sponsor of the Riverina Wine Show for the ninth year running. Sydney Ports' Directors will attend the Wine Show dinner as part of this visit.

Ends

Photo opportunity: 10:30am at Griffith City Council – Council Chambers, Neville Place, Griffith

\*TEU – Twenty Foot Equivalent Unit

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