

Media Release

REGIONAL NSW TRADE CONTRIBUTES TO SOLID GAINS THROUGH PORT BOTANY

Tuesday 30 March 2010

Sydney Ports has again achieved record monthly container throughput for February – up 25.4 per cent on the previous February- which was the fifth monthly record this financial year, further demonstrating the resilience of the NSW economy.

Regional trade plays a significant part in NSW exports representing over 20% of all export trade, Sydney Ports CEO Grant Gilfillan said today.

Mr Gilfillan said Agricultural exports remain strong, with a number of commodities experiencing over 30 per cent growth for the financial year to February 2010.

“We have seen a 34.4% increase in Cereals (including wheat and barley) with most exports to Vietnam, New Zealand and Taiwan,” Mr Gilfillan said.

“Cotton has also returned strongly as growing conditions returned favouring the northern NSW cotton growing region, with a 132.7% increase compared to the same period last year.

“In addition, Fruit and Vegetable exports have seen a 39.3% increase, with more than 40% exports to India. In fact India has generated 84% of the total growth in Fruit and Vegetable exports,” Mr Gilfillan said.

“Trade performance for this financial year, to February 2010 was 1.301 million TEU, up 4.3% on the same period last year.

“The outlook for the local economy and consequently container trade volumes remains positive, buoyed by the ongoing strength in trade with East Asia,” Mr Gilfillan said.

Mr Gilfillan said Sydney Ports’ extensive infrastructure program was aimed at catering for additional growth and streamlining the supply chain through Sydney for the state’s exporters.

“Sydney Ports is undertaking major projects aimed at meeting NSW’s trade demands well into the future,” Mr Gilfillan said.

“We are well underway on the \$1 billion Port Botany Container Terminal Expansion which will provide additional terminal capacity for projected growth in exports and better access to shipping lines for exporters.

“Working together with regional communities, exporters and transport networks we will increase future opportunities to grow our businesses to support the NSW economy,” Mr Gilfillan said.
