



**Minister for Ports and Waterways
Minister for Regulatory Reform
Minister for Small Business**

MEDIA RELEASE

October 2, 2007

NEW \$6.9 MILLION OPERATIONS CENTRE FOR PORT BOTANY

Plans for a brand new \$6.9 million operations centre in Port Botany were unveiled today by Ports and Waterways Minister Joe Tripodi and Maroubra MP Michael Daley.

Mr Tripodi said the building will centralise all control of shipping for Sydney's ports and will be outfitted with more than \$2 million worth of state of the art communications technology.

"With the relocation of the car trade from Sydney down to Port Kembla and the ever increasing trade in containers, Port Botany will continue to grow," he said.

"By the end of next year more than 80 per cent of all shipping movements through Sydney Ports will be concentrated here in Port Botany.

"Catering for this growth, the NSW Government is constructing a brand new, \$6.9 million state of the art, environmentally friendly operations centre in the middle of the busy Port.

"The centre consolidates Sydney Harbour operations, bringing together navigation control, pilotage, communications control and other functions needed for efficient shipping," he said.

Mr Tripodi said the Lemna Government has committed to massive investment in our ports as part of the NSW Ports Growth Plan, ensuring future capacity needs are met.

"The expansion of Port Botany will deliver 9,000 new jobs to NSW and boost the State's economy by \$16 billion over the next 20 years – that's an average of \$800 million per annum.

"Today's announcement goes hand in hand with this massive investment," Mr Tripodi said.

Maroubra MP Michael Daley said the announcement was great news for the electorate, especially the community multifunction centre aspect of the new building.

"The operations centre will be a great investment for both our local community and for shipping efficiency," Mr Daley said.

"In local terms, there will be a great new learning centre for the use of visiting delegations, local community groups and education programs.

"Environmentally, the building will also be ecologically sustainable, carrying a 4.5 green star rating, which is obviously also great news for Maroubra," he said.

Mr Tripodi said a Development Application for the building was recently lodged with the Council of the City of Botany Bay and construction could begin early next year with operations beginning in late 2009.