



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

MEDIA RELEASE

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PORT BOTANY “OIL SPILL EMERGENCY”

An oil spill training exercise in Botany Bay on Monday will test the NSW Government’s readiness to handle environmental emergencies.

Ports Minister Joe Tripodi said the trial emergency response, a joint initiative of the State Government and Caltex, is an opportunity to assess both employees and equipment.

“Up to 30 people will work together to control the simulated, mock ‘oil spill’ of up to 1,000 tonnes from a ship at Kurnell,” he said.

Equipment to be used in the exercise includes:

- five fast response vessels
- oil spill containment booms
- oil spill recovery equipment, and
- a computerised model of geographic and environmental details of the area to help protect sensitive habitats.

“The NSW Government takes the responsibility of protecting Sydney Harbour, Botany Bay and its waterways against marine pollution very seriously.

“A similar exercise earlier this year at Gore Bay, on the harbour, was a success with large areas of the Harbour contained by oil spill booms within minutes.

Mr Tripodi said Sydney Ports Corporation is responsible for the clean up and investigation of marine pollution incidents in Sydney Harbour and Port Botany.

“Last year more than 1,600 trading vessels visited Botany Bay, including more than 240 tankers.

“Sydney Port’s emergency team responds to more than 200 reports of marine pollution every year, with less than two per cent of these pollution reports sourced from commercial shipping operations.

“Ship owners and operators who are responsible for oil and chemical spills can face fines of up to \$10 million under the NSW Marine Pollution Act,” Mr Tripodi said.

The training exercise at the Caltex terminal in Kurnell will start at about 8am.