

MEDIA RELEASE



28 January 2004

Proposed Port Botany Expansion Proposal Exhibition Commenced

Sydney Ports Corporation's proposed Port Botany Expansion has been placed on public exhibition by the Department of Infrastructure and Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR).

As advertised by DIPNR, the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed expansion will be on exhibition from 28 January to 29 March 2004. DIPNR have advised the Development Application and accompanying EIS can be viewed during regular business hours at locations in Sydney and Canberra.

The NSW Government announced a Commission of Inquiry would be established to ensure the proposal was subject to rigorous environmental scrutiny and enable further public participation in the assessment process.

The Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, Craig Knowles, announced the inquiry would consider:

- The justification of the proposal;
- The terrestrial and marine environment;
- The hydrodynamics of Botany Bay;
- The acoustic environment;
- Air and water quality, including groundwater;
- Safety, both in terms of shipping navigation and the operations of Kingsford-Smith Airport;
- Local and regional traffic, road and rail networks;
- Local and regional infrastructure, including the implications on container movements and growth within NSW;
- Recreational opportunities in and around Botany Bay, in particular Foreshore Beach and Reserve;
- The cumulative impacts of the proposal in the context of the total port environs taking into account any relevant strategy for Botany Bay; and
- Social and economic implications of the development, including the implications to the State of not proceeding.

BACKGROUND

Port Botany is the second largest port in Australia and NSW's premier container port providing direct access to the largest consumer market. More than 85 per cent of Port Botany's container throughput is destined or sourced within the Sydney basin.

Port Botany has good access and proximity to the Sydney market. It is served by a dedicated freight rail line, good road links and deep water channel.

With port trade continuing to grow on average at approximately six to seven per cent per year, the Port will need to expand its capacity to serve its market by 2010. The lead time to develop new container facilities is around six years.

The proposal involves the reclamation of approximately 60 hectares to provide for five new shipping berths and container facilities. The expansion would be located between the existing port and the parallel runway at Sydney airport, extending north and west of the existing Patrick Stevedores container terminal. Access to the new terminal would be by dedicated road and rail bridges.

The Proposal incorporates environmental improvements to enhance Penrhyn Estuary, protect the Bay, and enhance recreational amenities near the Port's precinct at Foreshore Beach.

Media inquiries:

Kamini Parashar 9296 4995/0408 441010