

MEDIA RELEASE



29 April 2004

Sydney On Track For Another Container Trade Record

Sydney is paving the way for another annual container trade record with its ports achieving a year to date throughput of one million containers by mid April, one month earlier than last year.

“This achievement increases the average monthly container trade through Sydney Ports to 105,000 TEU * from 100,000. By maintaining this average Sydney is on target to reach in excess of 1.25 million containers for the financial year, surpassing last year’s record of 1.16 million”, said Phil Rosser, Senior Trade Manager, Sydney Ports Corporation.

Third quarter container trade figures demonstrate an increase of over 8.7 per cent on last year, which is just above Sydney’s average annual growth rate over the past thirty years of 7 per cent. Total trade in mass tonnes was 7.5 percent higher than the corresponding period last year.

“Container trade growth has been driven predominately by increased imports serving the city’s growing consumer market. Sydney continues to be one of Australia’s leading container import ports with imports currently up by 8.3 per cent on last year’s figures”, said Mr Rosser.

Commodities such as chemicals (including pharmaceutical products, paint products) and manufactures (including clothing articles, furniture) from China have led the way for containerised imports demonstrating high demand for these goods.

A 17.9 per cent increase in the number of empty containers leaving Sydney is a result of high imports and the need for shipping lines to reposition containers to Asia where there is a high demand. Full container exports are performing 1.2 per cent above last year’s figures with cereals and paper products exports on the increase.

“Other cargos have also been performing well including ongoing increases in the motor vehicle import trade and the amount of dry bulk product coming into Sydney. An 18.4 per cent rise in imported cement stems from an increase in demand from the non-housing construction sector”, Mr Rosser said.

Bulk liquid and gas shipments have also increased. There is a high demand for refined product stemming from the fuel discounts introduced by the major supermarkets. This has resulted in a 74.3 per cent rise in refined fuel imports, on last year’s figures. Demand for imported gas is also on the rise following the recent Moomba gas facility incident.

“Trade through the ports of Sydney is continuing to grow, Sydney Ports is focussed in ensuring the ports can continue to cater for this growth”, said Mr Rosser.

* TEU – Twenty foot equivalent unit

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