



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

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M E D I A                      R E L E A S E

## **Dredging to start on 3<sup>rd</sup> Terminal**

August 18, 2008

Dredging is about to commence at Port Botany as part of the first stage of the \$1 billion port expansion.

Ports and Waterways Minister Joe Tripodi said the dredging process would take a year.

“Dredging the bay will ensure we have the capacity to accommodate the expected doubling of trade through the port over the next 10 to 15 years,” Mr Tripodi said.

“A silt curtain is being installed around the area where dredging is being done to confine sediment and to protect the wider Botany Bay environment.”

Mr Tripodi said a cutter suction dredge from Belgium, the Nu Bounty, would be used during the initial stages of dredging. It is 50 metres in length, 10 metres in width and has the capability to dredge to a depth of 22 metres below water.

The Nu Bounty will reclaim an area between the existing Brotherson dock and the end of the third runway adjacent to the Patricks terminal.

A concrete precast facility will be built in this area later in the year.

From early 2009 a larger dredging vessel will complete the dredging activities.

“The expansion of Port Botany is one of the largest infrastructure projects being undertaken in Australia and an important component of the Lemna Government’s plans for the economic growth of NSW,” Mr Tripodi said.

“Protecting the environment and reducing disruption to recreational bay users will be a priority with the entire expansion project.

“A second silt curtain will be installed around an area of sea grass adjacent to Foreshore Beach to ensure this natural habitat is also protected from sediment from the dredging process.

“Naturally an operation of this size will have some short-term effects on the waterways, but these curtains should reduce the impact and ensure there are no long-term affects to the environment, and minimal disruption to recreational users of the bay.”

Water quality monitoring has already commenced to set a baseline against which to measure turbidity or cloudiness resulting from the dredging activities.

Monitoring will be undertaken throughout the dredging process.

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