

Media Release

REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS PUSH PORT BOTANY TO NEW RECORDS

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Strengthened by resilient regional agricultural exports, total container trade through Port Botany increased 8% to reach a record 1.928 million TEUs* (containers measured as twenty-foot equivalent units) in the financial year to 30 June 2010.

Jason McGregor, Sydney Ports Corporation's Senior Marketing Manager says that exports from regional NSW have contributed to the 9th consecutive year of growth for Port Botany.

"We welcome the fantastic full year 2009/10 container trade results for Port Botany which represents the 9th consecutive annual growth record for the Port," Mr McGregor said.

"Full container exports for financial year 2009/10 reached a new record of 442,600 TEUs, despite a strong Australian Dollar. The higher exports of cereals, cotton, non-ferrous metals and paper products have been the primary drivers of the growth.

"Countries such as China, New Zealand, Japan and the United States continue to be the main consumers of these local products.

"The standout export commodity is cotton, with demand from Asian countries boosting cotton exports by 138.7 % compared to the previous financial year – exports of over 10,200 TEUs.

"Cereal exports (including wheat and barley) continued to increase strongly as a result of favourable growing conditions in the North West and Central West regions of the state, up 19.1% on last financial year.

"Another standout for 2009/10 was the export of dairy products and eggs which saw an increase of 136.5% on the previous year.

"Meanwhile the export of wood, timber and cork grew 22%, vegetables and legumes grew almost 10% while oil seeds, nuts and kernels grew 12.4%.

"In the nine months from October 2009 to June 2010, container volumes produced the strongest ever performance for the port's container trade, with a 14 % average monthly growth rate. In particular Sydney Ports registered the highest monthly container throughput ever of 182,000 TEUs which was in the month of November 2009.

Mr McGregor said Sydney Ports was investing in new infrastructure that would facilitate increased efficiencies in the supply chain - all of which would benefit businesses in regional NSW who are exporting out of Sydney.

“Global economic conditions will still require monitoring over the next twelve months, but with the investment in infrastructure such as the \$1 Billion Port Botany Expansion, Sydney Ports and the broader regional NSW economy will be well placed to take advantage of the return to normal market conditions.

“The development of a Third Container Terminal, once operational, will significantly boost capacity for exporters and importers. Construction of this massive project is on track and over \$168 million will be invested on the project in 2010/11 financial year,” he said.

**TOP 15 NSW AGRIBUSINESS EXPORTS EXPORTED OUT OF PORT BOTANY 2009/10
(Measured in TEUs*)**

	FY 09/10
Wheat	20,198
Cereal Prep'S Nes.	20,179
Wood, timber and cork	18,242
Meat and meat preparations	13,425
Food Preparations- Other	11,146
Cotton	10,217
Vegetables & Legumes	9,671
Pet Food (Dog Or Cat Food)	9,540
Wool	6,119
Dairy products and eggs	4,641
Hides, skins and fur skins, raw	3,065
Oil seeds, oil nuts and oil kernels	2,250
Wine & Sparkling Wine	1,988
Fish, crustaceans and molluscs, and preparations thereof	1,262
Cereals, Unmilled, Nes.	788

***TEU= 20 foot equivalent unit, the standard international measure for container volumes**