



MEDIA RELEASE

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Record container trade through Sydney

Latest trade figures show container and bulk liquids trade through Sydney's ports continues to grow strongly, Sydney Ports Corporation Chief Executive Officer Grant Gilfillan said today.

In the six months from July to December 2007 container trade through Port Botany increased by a record 8.5 per cent when compared to the same period in 2006, with approximately 906,600 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) handled at the port.

"Sydney continues to be one of Australia's leading container import ports with imports currently up to over 469,000 TEUs, an increase of 9.2 per cent on last year's figures", said Mr Gilfillan.

"Container trade growth was driven by increased imports serving the city's consumers in the lead up to Christmas. Commodities such as machinery, manufactured goods, textile articles and clothing apparel have contributed to this increase; whilst full imports from China, the US and New Zealand grew substantially in the six month period to December 2007."

Container exports increased by 7.8 per cent in the July to December period, totalling over 437,300 TEUs.

Total trade through Sydney's ports was 14.9 million mass tonnes, 6.1 per cent higher than the corresponding period last year, "Cargoes other than containers have also been performing well, including imports of oil, up 5.0 per cent on last year and imports of bulk liquids and gas products, up 15.3 per cent," said Mr Gilfillan.

Demand for both imported crude and refined oil has contributed to this increase, with crude oil through Sydney's private berths of Caltex and Shell up 5.1 per cent; and refined oil through Port Botany up 4.4 per cent.

"Trade through the ports of Sydney is continuing to grow and Sydney Ports is focussed on ensuring the ports can continue to cater for this growth", said Mr Gilfillan.

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