

MEDIA RELEASE



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New Cement distribution facility for White Bay

A proposal for a new cement distribution facility at White Bay, in Sydney's inner west, is set to further enhance the use of that area as a working port.

"Independent Cement and Lime, a Melbourne-based company, proposes to lease approximately 1.33 hectares of land at White Bay for the import, storage and distribution of cement to meet the needs of the Sydney metropolitan area," said Greg Martin, Chief Executive Officer of Sydney Ports.

Sydney residents use approximately one cubic metre of concrete per person per annum, with over 60 per cent of NSW cement being used in the metropolitan area. Cement is an essential ingredient of concrete.

"Sydney Ports has a commitment to retain White Bay for maritime uses, and to encourage trade through the port. A number of businesses already operate at the port including cement, gypsum, sugar and vegetable oil importers.

"The IC&L proposal fits in very well with our objectives, and is similar to existing operations at the port," Mr Martin said.

The IC&L proposal is for the construction of a cement terminal with a dome, silos and a warehouse to handle dry cement, 100 per cent of which will be received in bulk via vessels. The cement will then either be dispatched in sealed road tankers, using James Craig Road, and delivered to concrete batching plants around Sydney, or bagged on site for palletised distribution to retailers.

"The development will benefit the local area through the creation of jobs on site. It will also take a number of trucks travelling long distances off main arterial roads into Sydney and metropolitan roads, with the cement being received by ships.

IC&L plans to distribute 90 per cent of the product within the Sydney metropolitan area. The establishment of this facility in Sydney will help promote competition and resulting cost efficiencies within the industry.

An Environmental Assessment for this proposal is on display for public comment by the Department of Planning with submissions due by Monday 27th March 2006.

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