

Media Release

SYDNEY PORTS CONTAINER TRADE BREAKS RECORD FOR 2010/11

9 August 2011

Sydney Ports Corporation announced today that for the first time ever, container traffic through Port Botany had exceeded two million TEUs* in a financial year.

Sydney Ports Corporation Chief Executive Officer Grant Gilfillan said that the high volume of trade in the financial year 2010/11 had been led, not only by increased imports driven by the high Australian dollar, but by significant growth in the export of cereals, machinery and equipment and paper and timber products.

“In the financial year 2010/11, Sydney Ports recorded its tenth annual container throughput record with total container trade of over 2.020 million TEUs,” Mr Gilfillan said today.

“It is important to note that while Port Botany’s container trade has been buoyed by higher imports due to the surging Australian Dollar, a solid trading performance by the State’s regional and rural export sector has also contributed to the result. Total full container exports for the 2010/11 financial year saw exports rise by 3.6 per cent over the same period last year reaching over 458,700 TEUs” Mr Gilfillan said.

He said that the key drivers for the export growth had been:

- cereals, including wheat and flour, up by over 7 per cent;
- machinery and transport equipment (including a mix of industrial machinery and equipment), up by 6 per cent;
- pulp and waste paper (up by more than 10 per cent; and
- wood and timber, up by more than over 11 per cent compared to the same period last year.

Total full container imports for the 2010/11 financial year rose by 5.2 per cent reaching over 1,000,450 TEUs.

The key drivers of this import growth were:

- miscellaneous manufactures (includes a large variety of smaller consumer products), up by more than 9 per cent;
- chemicals (including plastic materials, resins, cleaning materials and perfumes) up by 7 per cent; and
- machinery and transport equipment (including electrical items such as washing machines, dryers and televisions) up by more than 6 per cent compared to the same period last year.

Mr Gilfillan said the 61.1 per cent of total containerised imports through Port Botany had come from East Asia (46.5 per cent) and South East Asia (14.6 per cent).

Mr Gilfillan said Sydney Ports was managing the expected increase in container trade by investing in infrastructure such as the \$1 billion Port Botany Expansion project, which will double the capacity of the current port to meet projected long term growth.

“In addition, we are already seeing supply chain improvements through the Port Botany Landside Improvement (PBLIS) reforms, which seek to improve consistency, transparency and efficiency of landside operations at Port Botany,” Mr Gilfillan said.

“Since the introduction of penalties for the new Operational Performance Management scheme in February 2011, we have seen Truck Turnaround Times (TTT) average 30 minutes.

“This is well below the 50 plus minute averages that were being experienced at Port Botany prior to implementation.

“Sydney Ports expects that the new performance management scheme will ensure this measure will remain under the benchmark of 50 minutes as container volumes continue to grow,” Mr Gilfillan concluded.

**TEU = Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units*

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