



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

DRAFT MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 5AM December 20, 2007

CONTRACT FOR PORT BOTANY EXPANSION SIGNED

One of Sydney's biggest infrastructure projects becomes a reality today with the signing of a contract to deliver the NSW Government's \$1 billion Port Botany expansion.

Ports Minister Joe Tripodi and the Belgian Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Mr Frank Carruet, were on hand for the signing in State Parliament today, setting in motion a project expected to deliver more than 9,000 jobs and \$16 billion to the NSW economy.

H.E. Carruet represented Belgian company Jan De Nul at the signing with Ken Reynolds of Australian company Baulderstone Hornibrook, the two joint venture partners selected to deliver the massive infrastructure project.

"The \$1 billion Port Botany expansion will sustain Sydney's economic growth for years to come," Mr Tripodi said.

"Premier Morris Iemma recently announced Baulderstone Hornibrook and Jan De Nul as successful tenderers and the signing of this contract shows the Port Botany expansion has begun," Mr Tripodi said.

"Trade is the lifeblood of the NSW economy, and the Iemma Government is investing now to keep our economy growing in the future," he said.

H.E. Mr Carruet said the expansion construction at Port Botany provides industry in NSW the opportunity to create jobs and prosperity.

"I am confident Jan de Nul will deliver a great performance and support the export growth of Sydney harbour," Mr Carruet said.

"This company has a lot of experience in Australia, such as with their latest project, the dredging of the Port Hedland harbour," he said.

Mr Reynolds, Baulderstone Hornibrook General Manager, said the massive project will significantly increase the infrastructure capability of New South Wales.

"We are delighted to have been selected to work with the NSW Government to deliver this expansion at Port Botany," he said.