

Media Release

SYDNEY PILOT SERVICE – CHANGES TO PILOTAGE CHARGES

Tuesday 2 March 2010

Sydney Ports Corporation today announced structural changes and increases to pilotage charges, effective from 1 April 2010, Sydney Ports CEO, Grant Gilfillan said today.

“Sydney Pilot Service provides world class pilotage services to commercial ships entering and leaving Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay, supporting over \$50 billion in trade annually through these ports,” Mr Gilfillan said.

“Last year, around 4,500 pilotage movements occurred on ships visiting the Ports of Sydney and Botany, including 240 cruise passenger vessel movements.

“Whilst these are necessary adjustments to our operating charges for pilotage, we will continuously monitor operational procedures with a view to minimising the cost of providing pilotage services in Sydney’s ports.

“The last increase to pilotage charges occurred in 2006 and Sydney Ports Corporation needs to continue to provide high quality and financially sustainable pilotage services,” Mr Gilfillan said.

The following pilotage charge increases will come into effect on 1 April 2010:

- The current boarding charge of \$300 will be increased by \$150 to \$450 and amalgamated with the minimum charge for ships under 4,000 GT (\$350) into a new boarding fee of \$800 (ex GST) (excluding the \$25 fuel surcharge) per pilotage service; and
- All other components of the pilotage charge will increase by the three year cumulative CPI (7.5%) on 1 April 2010.

Thereafter, all charges will continue to be adjusted by the CPI on an annual basis from 1 July 2010 (excluding the \$25 fuel surcharge).

These changes follow consultation with the peak industry body Shipping Australia Limited (SAL) that took place in 2009. On the basis of this consultation, it was determined that the proposed changes, if approved, would not take effect until the 2010 calendar year.

Sydney Ports last month officially advised SAL of the effective dates and wrote to key customers informing them of the changes.