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M E D I A R E L E A S E

IPART reforms enhance NSW Ports

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Operations at Port Botany are set to undergo major changes under the most ambitious ports reform agenda ever put forward in NSW.

Announcing the Rees Government's response to an IPART review of Port Botany, Ports and Waterways Minister Joe Tripodi said the aim is to maximise the amount of trade passing through our ports by making the supply chain more efficient.

"This will be the first time in Australia a port authority will move away from the landlord model of port management to become actively engaged in the logistics chain," Mr Tripodi said.

"These reforms will drive innovative and low-cost solutions to supply chain issues.

"We are introducing cutting edge reforms from around the world for Port Botany.

"The aim is to make imports cheaper and exports more competitive."

Mr Tripodi said the focus of the IPART reforms will be:

- Off Peak Incentive pricing system for truck allocation at ports;
- Performance standards, set by industry, for rail and truck turn-around;
- New real time information systems;
- A rail logistics team to improve rail efficiency.

Mr Tripodi said industry and Government will have to work cooperatively to successfully implement the changes.

"This is a two-phased approach. Industry will have the opportunity to implement these improvements. My preference is for the market to deliver but if there is a market failure the Government can intervene.

"Sydney Ports Corporation will take a lead role in coordinating the supply chain improvements and collecting performance data which will allow us to calibrate the reforms.

“If the Government does have to step in, there will be mandatory performance standards and reporting along with penalties for non-compliance.”

Included in the reforms will be new IT systems to help port users better plan their operations. These will be developed to provide industry with regularly updated “real time” information via the internet.

During delays, information will be sent to truck operators about length of truck queues and expected delays.

"We are hoping industry takes the lead and initiates the necessary changes to reduce road congestion and improve efficiency at the port," Mr Tripodi said.

“Elements of Phase Two, where the Government will intervene, may be selectively implemented depending on the quality and effectiveness of the industry response.

“This could lead to Sydney Ports Corporation managing the new Vehicle Booking System including the Off Peak Incentive Scheme which encourages trucks to access the port outside of peak hour.”

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