

MEDIA RELEASE

SYDNEY PORTS MEETS WITH EXPORTERS FROM THE RIVERINA

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As part of its paddock to port strategy, senior representatives from Sydney Ports Corporation today visited the Riverina region to discuss initiatives aimed at assisting local exporters.

Speaking from Griffith, Sydney Ports Corporation Chief Executive Grant Gilfillan said the organisation has built, managed and developed world class port facilities and services to provide New South Wales with a commercially focused, efficient logistics chain.

“Today’s visit which included hosting a local trade forum with the Minister for Ports along with Griffith City Council provided Sydney Ports the opportunity to brief local exporters and agri-business on our port and trade developments,” Mr Gilfillan said.

“In recent years, Sydney Ports has focused on helping to increase the volume of full container exports from NSW, especially from regional areas such as the Riverina.

“In the 2008/09 financial year, total containers—measured in TEUs, twenty foot equivalent units —transferred through Port Botany reached a record 1.784 million.

“The record throughput of over 442,000 full export containers out of Port Botany helped mitigate the effects of the global economic slowdown and also helped Sydney achieve its eighth consecutive annual growth record,” Mr Gilfillan said.

Some of the main “Agribusiness” exports from NSW out of Port Botany in 2008/09 include:

- Meat – 14,765 TEU
- Dairy Products and Eggs – 1962 TEU
- Wheat – 15,999 TEU
- Fruit – 1,264 TEU
- Vegetables and Legumes – 8,813 TEU
- Wool – 6181 TEU

“Regional exporters from across the Riverina have played their part to contribute to Port Botany’s success.

Mr Gilfillan said the extensive infrastructure program and business process improvements by Sydney Ports are also aimed at meeting the commercial and logistical needs of exporters from the Riverina by looking to remove supply chain constraints.

“Working together with regional communities, exporters and transport networks in the Riverina, we will increase future opportunities to grow our businesses to support the NSW economy,” Mr Gilfillan said.

“Sydney Ports is undertaking major projects aimed at meeting Sydney and NSW’s trade demands well into the future.

“We are well underway on the \$1 billion Port Botany Container Terminal Expansion which will provide additional terminal capacity for projected growth in exports and better access to shipping lines for Riverina exporters.

“In addition, Sydney Ports is implementing the Port Botany Landside Improvement Strategy (PBLIS) which will reduce costs and deliver significant benefits to exporters,” Mr Gilfillan said.

This will be done by improving efficiency and consistency of both the road and rail supply chains into Port Botany by implementing performance benchmarks for stevedores, road and rail operators.

Mr Gilfillan said Sydney Ports was again pleased to be sponsoring the Australian Institute of Export “Best Agribusiness” awards.

“The annual Premier’s NSW Export Awards recognise export excellence and Sydney Ports continues to build on the export partnership we have developed over the last ten years.”

“In addition, Sydney Ports is pleased to be supporting our wine exporters through this month’s NSW Wine Industry Association Awards and Wine Week program,” Mr Gilfillan said.

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