

Increased containers on rail a priority

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NSW Ports welcomes the announcement today that if elected, a Federal ALP government would commit funding to complete the duplication of the rail line servicing Port Botany.

NSW Ports has a focus on increasing the number of containers moved by rail to and from Port Botany.

To achieve a sustainable efficient port supply chain for the people and business' of New South Wales, operational improvements, proactive planning and investment in infrastructure will all be required.

NSW Ports Chief Executive Officer, Marika Calfas said "Completing the duplication of the freight rail line to Port Botany will improve the reliability and efficiency of rail access to and from the Port."

Port Botany is a key infrastructure asset of national significance, one of the largest container ports in Australia. "Growing the movement of containers by rail is vital to securing an efficient and sustainable transport system to meet the State's growing trade needs into the future" said Ms Calfas.

Every one million TEU moved by rail reduces the number of trucks on the roads around Port Botany by more than 900 trucks each day. "Taking trucks off the roads around the Port is good for the people and business' of New South Wales and will assist in lowering the cost of transporting goods to and from the Port," said Ms Calfas.

NSW Ports has set a target to move three million TEU per year by rail by 2045. The operation of intermodal terminals will be essential for achieving this target.

Ms Calfas said "Intermodal facilities such as Enfield and Cooks River will become a vital part of the future port supply chain for New South Wales, becoming inland extensions to Port Botany, allowing the needs of the people and business' of New South Wales to be met into the future"

The commencement of rail operations by Aurizon at the Enfield Intermodal Logistics Centre (ILC) at the beginning of May provides a platform for the future growth and development of this new transport and warehousing hub in Sydney. It also paves the way for the introduction of port shuttles between Port Botany and the Enfield ILC.

NSW Ports is pleased to see that the duplication of the Port Botany Rail Freight line is listed as a 'high-priority' initiative in the Infrastructure Australia Priority List. "Ultimately the duplication of the line will provide additional freight rail capacity, ensuring it can handle larger volumes of freight and be a reliable and cost effective mode of transport into the future".

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Enquiries:

Sandy Rae
Media & Communications Manager
Telephone: 1300 922 524
Mobile: 0411 138 543
sandy.rae@nswports.com.au

www.nswports.com.au