

# Paul McLeay MP

Minister for Ports and Waterways  
Minister for the Illawarra



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M E D I A   R E L E A S E

Thursday, 21 January 2010

## **New Port Botany freight train services to relieve truck congestion, improve supply chain**

Ports and Waterways Minister Paul McLeay said today a new train service into Port Botany will deliver economic improvements to the port-related supply chain and ease congestion and pollution on major roads such as the M5.

The new service introduced today (Thursday, January 21) runs between Yennora and Port Botany and will be operated by P&O Trans Australia (POTA).

“This additional train service from Yennora to Port Botany is a vote of confidence in the Port’s operations and future growth that will come with increased trade and construction of the new Third Terminal,” Mr McLeay said.

“POTA estimates the rail service will remove up to 136 truck trips per day off the M5 which will contribute towards meeting the NSW Government’s long term target of 40 per cent rail modal share to and from Port Botany.

“Today is a fitting milestone in the Government’s reform process through the Port Botany Landside Improvement Strategy (PBLIS) and I would like to thank POTA for their collaborative work with Sydney Ports Corporation.”

The new train service will:

- Reduce the number of trucks on major roads such as the M5 Tunnel;
- Ease truck congestion around Port Botany;
- Decrease exhaust emissions.

POTA Managing Director Paul Digney said the Yennora to Port Botany service will assist in providing a “customised rail solution” for the Port Botany supply chain.

“The new service will enhance POTA’s existing rail facilities and services and means up to 136 trucks will no longer go through the M5 tunnel,” Mr Digney said.

“In terms of emissions, this single train service is predicted to remove 900,000 kilograms of CO2 emissions in 2010 alone.”

Mr Digney said POTA's rail expansion will continue throughout 2010. The company expects its rail capacity, including all POTA metro and regional rail services in New South Wales, to exceed 30% of the total Government's target of 40% of containers on rail.

NSW Transport and Roads Minister David Campbell said the State Government is undertaking a range of initiatives to improve freight performance across the state, including the 40 per cent target for rail freight from Port Botany.

"The NSW Government has also signed an agreement with the Commonwealth Government owned Australian Rail Track Corporation to lease the New South Wales interstate track and Hunter Valley rail freight corridors, to attract more freight to rail," Mr Campbell said.

"It is these sorts of initiatives that will help reduce the number of trucks on our roads."

Sydney Ports CEO Grant Gilfillan said the PBLIS Port Botany Rail Team was on target to deliver improvements to productivity and efficiency to the Port Botany supply chain.

"With container trade hitting record levels at Port Botany this financial year, POTA's new service into Port Botany will promote a more competitive commercial environment in port operations," Mr Gilfillan said.

"By increasing the rail modal share, we'll be improving overall productivity at the port and also alleviating congestion and pollution on major roads like the M5 Tunnel into the port precinct."

Last year rail volumes to and from the port continued to increase and were up by 13.5% on the corresponding period to 353,000 TEU.

"Greater utilisation of rail will help Port Botany enhance an efficient and consistent supply chain in one of Australia's main international trade gateways," Mr Gilfillan said.

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