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Shipowners consider landside reform at Port Botany essential

'The information provided by Minister Tripodi and by the Road and Rail Taskforce on the current status of reform of the logistics chains involving Port Botany at a briefing at Sydney airport this morning has been welcomed by Shipping Australia' the CEO, Llew Russell said today.

'It is certainly heading in the right direction and not before time.

'We are looking forward to the first trial to begin on 16 February for 14 days when Sydney Ports Corporation will begin collecting data to provide a baseline on current performance of vehicle booking systems, road carrier performance and vehicle processing times at container terminals and empty container parks', he said.

Mr Russell acknowledged the leadership provided by the Minister and noted progress so far in terms of putting better communications protocols in place when the inevitable problems arise. Use of these protocols has already shown positive results.

'The questions of peak charging of road carriers was extensively debated and clearly needs to be carefully thought through and all stakeholders consulted prior to implementation.

'The only way this is going to work is for all links in the logistics chain to be strengthened and for all stakeholders to play their part.

'Those who continually blame others in the chain for all their problems are likely to face a rude awakening.

'The time for talk is over and SAL, for its part, is willing to be part of the action that needs to be taken to improve performance' he said.

SAL agreed fully, however with the comment this morning that it is indeed preferable to arrive at the right solution rather than simply seeking a quick solution.

For further information:

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