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Progression towards a Newcastle Vessel Arrival System as a result of talks

'The Executives of the Newcastle Port Corporation and Shipping Australia met last Friday in Sydney as a follow-up to talks organised in Newcastle by Minister Joe Tripodi on the previous Friday to work on encouraging progression towards a Vessel Arrival System by the beginning of November this year' Llew Russell, Chief Executive Officer of Shipping Australia said today.

'It was emphasised by SAL that there had always been support for a system that would facilitate the strengthening and improved efficiency in the coal supply chain from mine to end user and a Vessel Arrival System was an important link in that logistics chain. However, SAL had been concerned that any system must be practically implementable and not disturb the underlying contractual arrangements that support Australia's burgeoning thermal coal export trade.

'At both the discussions in Newcastle and in Sydney, SAL had emphasised the need for the exporters and importers of coal to be closely consulted to ensure that their requirements are taken into account' he said.

Mr Russell said that 'SAL was very pleased with the high level of consultation the Newcastle Port Corporation has already undertaken in relation to this matter and also the proposed consultation including contact with overseas stakeholders.

In SAL's view this has now closed the loop as all the stakeholders in Newcastle had been previously consulted and the General Manager Operations of the NPC, Mr Ron Sorenson had previously travelled to Sydney to discuss the matter at a meeting of the SAL NSW State Committee.

‘In my view all stakeholders now have a much better understanding of the objectives and of all the issues involved in the total through transport supply chain.

‘This clearer understanding of all the requirements by all the participants in the chain will clearly result in a more sustainable and effective Vessel Arrival System off the port of Newcastle’ Mr Russell said.

For further information:

Llew Russell, CEO SAL, 0414 958 247