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Shipping Australia welcomes new third terminal operator at Port Botany

“Shipping Australia is relieved that a new stevedoring operator has been announced for the third terminal under construction at Port Botany and Hutchinson Port Holdings (HPH) was a good choice” Llew Russell, SAL Chief Executive said today.

Shipping Australia has supported the introduction of a third major container stevedore where it was commercially viable to do so and where it would not have a negative impact on investment.

“Given that there has been congestion at Port Botany container terminals, especially one terminal, during this peak season (August to December) indicates that available capacity is being tested.

“While HPH will not be operating until the end of 2012, it could well provide a much needed increase in capacity” he said.

HPH has already been selected to operate two new berths at Fisherman Islands in 2011 and 2012, so this appears to be a good fit given that stevedoring contracts are generally on a national basis.

“The latest ACCC stevedoring monitoring report discusses these issues in depth and it noted that the Victorian Government is giving serious consideration to the development of a new container terminal at Webb Dock by around 2013 subject to the necessary approvals being received.

“Thanks to the NSW Government, we appear to be heading in the right direction to cope with the forecast increase in growth in container levels when the economy recovers.

“The record throughput in October and November at Port Botany indicates this recovery could be closer than we think” Mr Russell said.

Mr Russell pointed out that increasing capacity to cope with forecast growth in an important part of the equation but being internationally competitive in price is equally important as far as port charges and port service provider costs are concerned.

“As important stakeholders we are keen to work with others including Sydney Ports Corporation in ensuring this latter objective is achieved.”

Editor’s note

For more information Llew Russell on 02 9266 9903/0414 958 247.

Shipping Australia is a peak industry association representing the shipping industry. Its 39 member shipping lines and shipping agents would be involved with 80 per cent of Australia’s container trade, car trade and cruising industry as well as a 50 per cent involvement in the break bulk and bulk industries