



THE HON. JOE TRIPODI MP
MINISTER FOR FINANCE
MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
MINISTER FOR REGULATORY REFORM
MINISTER FOR PORTS AND WATERWAYS

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Last car carrier arrives at Glebe Island

November 15, 2008

The last car carrier to visit Sydney Harbour delivered its cargo at Glebe Island today.

Ports and Waterways Minister Joe Tripodi said this event marked the final step in the Government's plan to transition the vehicle import trade from Sydney to Port Kembla, part of the NSW Ports Growth Plan announced in 2003.

"The last car carrier, the Blue Hawk arrived at Glebe Island today and will discharge vehicles from Japan before continuing to Melbourne," Mr Tripodi said.

"This is the end of an era for White Bay. Although this is the last car carrier to visit, Sydney Harbour will remain a working port.

"Sydney has been a working harbour since the beginning of European settlement.

"The area around White Bay and Glebe Island has been used for wharfage since the 1920s, with the Glebe Island container terminal opening in 1973 and cars being transported to this site since then.

"The port facilities in Sydney Harbour not only play a vital role in the NSW economy but are also central in the identity of the harbour."

Mr Tripodi said the car import trade has been progressively moved from Sydney Harbour to Port Kembla since October 2007 following an upgrade of the Port Kembla facilities.

"Over the last few years Sydney Ports Corporation has worked with industry and Port Kembla Port Corporation to ensure this has been a smooth transition of the vehicle import trade from Sydney," Mr Tripodi said.

"While the transfer of the car trade will certainly mean a decrease in the number of commercial vessels visiting Sydney Harbour, it is not the end of big ships on Sydney Harbour.

"The Government will soon start a public consultation process about the future of the Bays Precinct, including White Bay, Glebe Island, Blackwattle Bay and fish markets."

Cars will continue to be stored at Glebe Island and White Bay warehousing facilities over the coming months prior to movement to car yards and sale agents.

Kate Sullivan (02) 9228 5451 or 0438 719 440