

MEDIA RELEASE

Date Wednesday, 17 September 2008

Patrick supports NSW Government IPART recommendations

The NSW Minister for Ports, Joe Tripodi today responded to the IPART recommendations resulting from an extensive inquiry into the landside interface at Port Botany.

Patrick welcomed the NSW Government support for IPART reforms which will encourage productivity by driving higher volumes through existing port infrastructure whilst reducing congestion.

Asciano Managing Director Mark Rowsthorn commented "We are encouraged by Minister Tripodi's willingness to consider the views of all parts of the industry and support a solution that will not only enhance the efficiency of road and rail movements but deliver a framework for further investment in landside infrastructure."

Patrick Divisional General Manager Doug Schultz said, "Patrick has consistently supported the IPART inquiry and its recommendations whilst noting some concerns around the proposed dutch auction pricing mechanism. The peak pricing surcharge preferred by government could be a viable alternative mechanism.

"Patrick agrees with IPART's core recommendation for a two tiered VBS with a choice of firm slots and interruptible slots", said Mr Schultz.

"The introduction of service level agreements between stevedores and carriers will establish commercial relationships and further encourage the transport industry to move to 24/7 operations", said Mr Schultz.

"As per IPART's recommendations, greater certainty of business rules and monitoring and reporting the performance of all participants, will improve transparency and visibility across the transport chain. We look forward to working through the detail with Sydney Ports Corporation." said Mr Schultz.

Mr Rowsthorn added, "the incentives provided to road operators to access the terminal outside peak hours will not only improve the overall efficiency of our terminal, it will also reduce congestion on Sydney's roads."

One of the key elements of the NSW Government's announcement is the acknowledgement that rail access to the Port Botany terminal needs to be improved.

"Any improvements to rail access to and from the port complements Patrick's investment in Rail Mounted Gantries at our facility and moves us one step closer to achieving the joint objective of 40% rail mode share port container movements," said Mr Rowsthorn.

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Further information about Asciano can be found on our internet site: www.asciano.com

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