



# MEDIA RELEASE

## AAT's NEW PORT KEMBLA TERMINAL OFFICIALLY OPENS

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NSW Ports Minister, the Hon. Joe Tripodi, has officially opened Stage 1 of AAT's new \$80 million Port Kembla Terminal – signalling the start of an 18-month transition of general cargo and motor vehicle trade from Sydney to the Illawarra.

The opening ceremony took place as the Swires Shipping vessel "Coral Chief" prepared to berth at the new terminal facilities carrying the first load of cargo which, until now, would have been discharged at Darling Harbour in Port Jackson.

Between now and the end of 2008, AAT will gradually transfer all of its operations at Glebe Island in Port Jackson to the new facilities at Port Kembla.

AAT Chief Executive Officer, Dean Wells, said the official opening of the Port Kembla terminal and imminent arrival of the Coral Chief was a significant milestone for AAT and the Illawarra.

"We are very proud of what we have achieved here over the past two years in planning, developing, and now beginning to operate what is undoubtedly one of the premier port terminals in Australia," Mr Wells said.

"The facilities we can now offer our customers are due not only to AAT's investment but also the \$60 million commitment of the Port Kembla Port Corporation to build new berths and make other major improvements to port infrastructure.

"Together that partnership has delivered a truly impressive and user-friendly facility," he said.

Minister Tripodi – joined at the official opening by the Minister for the Illawarra, David Campbell – congratulated AAT on the new terminal and said the NSW Government was committed to supporting the continued growth of Port Kembla.

"Today's opening is the first step – work is continuing on the next two stages of the project, which will see the development of new berth facilities and additional land development for the unloading, storage and processing of car imports," Mr Tripodi said.

"The Illawarra community will reap the economic and employment benefits that come from the port's expansion. With the general cargo arriving in the Illawarra on board the *Coral Chief*, this brand new AAT facility is officially open for business," he said.

The Stage 1 facilities officially opened by the Minister today include:

- 3 hectares of new cargo laydown and handling pavement
- 4 hectares of existing cargo laydown and handling pavement at berths 105 & 106
- 15,000 m<sup>2</sup> all-weather cargo shed
- Terminal entry and security
- Truck Marshalling area for 18 b-double vehicles
- Receival and Dispatch (R&D) area.
- AAT Office and Stevedores amenity complex

Stages 2 & 3 of the \$80 million AAT terminal development to provide facilities for the unloading, Storage and processing of NSW's motor vehicle import trade are due for completion in late 2008.