

PORTS AND WATERWAYS

Questions taken on Notice during hearing

QUESTION 1

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: It is my understanding that the Royal Caribbean and Celebrity cruise lines will have to anchor two ships at Athol Bay off Taronga Zoo next February. Do you accept my information is correct?

ANSWER

Sydney Harbour has two dedicated facilities for berthing cruise vessels, the Overseas Passenger Terminal at Circular Quay and Wharf 8 at Darling Harbour. I am advised these facilities have on average less than 20 percent utilisation over the year.

Bookings for these facilities are usually made by cruise lines two years ahead of visits. In early 2008 Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines (RCCL) attempted to book visits by two cruise ships to Sydney for February 2009.

I am advised both Wharf 8 and the Overseas Passenger Terminal had already been booked by other cruise vessels on the dates proposed by RCCL.

Sydney Ports Corporation has arranged for the vessels to be serviced at Athol Bay with passengers to be ferried by tenders to Darling Harbour. I am advised this a similar arrangement to those used in ports in the Caribbean and Mediterranean.

QUESTION 2

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: Minister, could you check how many cruise ships have gone to other cities because they were unable to obtain berthing facilities in Sydney and what the cost is to Sydney?

ANSWER

Sydney Ports Corporation has advised they are unaware of any cruise ships lost to Sydney because they could not obtain a berth.

QUESTION 3

Ms LEE RHIANNON: Mr Tripodi, is the contract for Port Botany a fixed price contract?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: As I understand it is, but obviously there are some issues where the risk may be borne by Sydney Ports Corporation. In all of these contracts there is a distribution of risk and it usually lays with the party most able to control for that risk.

Ms LEE RHIANNON: Can you—or perhaps can you take it on notice—provide more details about the risk that the Sydney Ports Corporation could be exposed to?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will take that on notice.

ANSWER

A fixed price contract was awarded to Boulderstone Hornibrook-Jan du Nul on 20 December 2007 for the design and construction of the Port Botany Expansion.

I am advised this contract mitigates the exposure to risk for Sydney Ports Corporation and includes standard provisions regarding costs for variations and contingencies.

QUESTION 4

Ms LEE RHIANNON: Can you take on notice how many development applications have been lodged in New South Wales for marina developments since the moratorium on such developments was lifted in 2005?

ANSWER

Development applications are not lodged with NSW Maritime for marina developments which were covered by the moratorium. They would be lodged with the relevant council, or the Department of Planning.

QUESTION 5

Ms LEE RHIANNON: Are those 3,000 jobs direct jobs? They must be indirect, must they not?

ANSWER

The Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group (NCIG) has stated its development at Kooragang would create up to a thousand extra jobs in the Hunter and generate up to 5,000 jobs across New South Wales. NCIG has indicated the new terminal will include up to 500 construction jobs and up to 100 operational jobs.

QUESTION 6

What is the original estimated amount of profit share received by the New South Wales Government relating to the major redevelopment of Walsh Bay over the past decade? Could you answer that?

ANSWER

\$3.211M was paid to the Government to settle the profit share. This amount is contained in the 2007-08 Annual Report.

NSW Maritime's profit share from the Walsh Bay project was agreed when final project costs and income were quantified in 2006, subject to Goods and Services tax and associated costs. The profit share paid to NSW Maritime was in accordance with this agreement.

QUESTION 7

Ms LEE RHIANNON: Are you saying that when you met with Hutchison Whampoa that it was not about being a third stevedore at Port Botany, it was just preliminary talks about being a third stevedore at Port Botany? When?

ANSWER

A meeting was held with Hutchinson Port Holdings in April 2007.