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The Hon. Tony Burke MLC
Chair
Inquiry into Port Infrastructure in NSW
State Development
Legislative Council Committee

Dear Mr Burke,

The Committee for Sydney is a not for profit organisation of business leaders that is committed to working with all sectors of government and private enterprise to ensure Sydney maximises its potential as a global city. This aim is dependent on the City's ongoing development in terms of economic and commercial health, social vibrancy, environmental impact and infrastructure development. Sydney is Australia's premier city, providing a substantial proportion of Australia's economic wealth. The continuing success of the City is therefore integral to the prosperity of the nation.

Sydney accounts for 21% of the Australian population but contributes 23% of the GDP. It is the site of 64% of multinational regional headquarters based in Australia. At present 80% of the cargo arriving into Sydney Ports only travels within 40 kms of the port. Sydney is growing by the size of Canberra every 5 years, requiring an efficient and cost effective freight distribution strategy to Australia's largest domestic market.

The NSW Government Ports Growth Plan provides an umbrella strategy for the future of port development in NSW. Many of the underlying issues that will determine the long-term success of the strategy will be explored over the term of the Inquiry. Infrastructure development, social and economic impacts and environmental issues will become more defined as the inquiry progresses.

For example, the outcomes of the decisions on rail and road transport of freight to and from the ports to cater for the forecast increase in container cargo will have a major effect on the cities of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong and surrounding areas. The decisions made as a result of the Inquiry will influence

The Committee for Sydney targets decision makers and opinion leaders and offers an independent, long-term vision designed to produce effective results

future community and commercial planning decisions in Sydney and regional NSW.

The economic, environmental and social issues concerning the NSW Ports plan are not separate and distinct from each other, rather they co-exist at all levels of planning. They also have input into the strategies for Sydney's long-term development. Our aim is to assist in clarifying the issues to provide an action plan that will benefit Sydney and NSW for the long term.

The Committee for Sydney has an interest in contributing to these debates and assisting in the determination of the best solutions for NSW ports strategy to maximise the State's potential as an efficient and globally competitive marketplace.

Yours sincerely

Jane Mallam
Executive Director