

23 March 2018

Secretary, Transport for NSW
PO Box K659
HAYMARKET NSW 1240

Dear Sir/Madam

THE DRAFT NSW FREIGHT AND PORTS PLAN

Ref: kb/SJ/SF7610

We refer to the above draft plan which is currently open and seeking feedback.

Tamworth Regional Council has a strong interest in this plan and believes there is a further consideration which has not been adequately addressed.

The document refers to the fact that in the next 40 years, freight volumes are estimated to double in the Greater Sydney area and grow by a quarter in Regional NSW.

The major commercial ports at Port Botany, Port Kembla and Newcastle are managing increasing volumes of imported and exported goods which require faster, more efficient road and rail access channels with Sydney and Regional NSW markets.

The Draft NSW Freight and Ports Plan and the Draft NSW Future Transport 2056 Strategy, clearly identify congestion issues at Port Botany. While substantial government infrastructure projects are proposed to alleviate this congestion, neither document references the under utilised freight capacity that already exists at the Port of Newcastle.

An efficient and cost-effective container freight supply chain is vital to the city of Tamworth and the surrounding region. A major logistics hub is being developed in Tamworth, which includes a connected heavy vehicle road network, adjacent to the intermodal rail site and the Tamworth Regional Airport, which is tagged to be upgraded to accommodate international freight. The NSW Government has committed funding to reinstate the Barraba Spur line which runs parallel to Wallamore Road and will access the intermodal site. Timely and efficient access to port is critical to the Tamworth intermodal project and for regional NSW.

The Port of Newcastle is far more accessible to the northern and western regional areas of NSW and may offer more potential efficiencies and cost savings.

All correspondence should be addressed to the General Manager:

Telephone: 6767 5555

PO Box 555 (DX 6125)

trc@tamworth.nsw.gov.au

Facsimile: 6767 5499

Tamworth NSW 2340

www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au

Accessing to the Port of Newcastle would avoid the congestion on the Sydney network to Port Botany. Newcastle as a container port could provide faster delivery turn-arounds if it was to be developed as a container port.

The Intermodal project and reinstatement of rail line will enhance network access and reduce the cost of market access for regional producers. The establishment of an integrated freight and logistics facility in Tamworth will address significant constraints in the local supply chain, in particular the lack of rail access. This project will increase efficiency in both rail and road service access for regional businesses and importantly link them to the ports of Sydney and also Brisbane if required.

The Port of Newcastle could provide a complementary option to Port Botany, and may help to offset some of the congestion issues that are outlined in the government plans and would improve NSW competitiveness compared with other Eastern Australian states. It would avoid the need to access the Port of Brisbane if congestion restraints impacted on efficiencies.

NSW has limited port capacity. Road and rail freight from the north of the state bound for the Port of Botany passes Newcastle only to be sent north again on sea freighters which ironically also pass Newcastle.

A container terminal at Newcastle needs to be investigated to fully understand what efficiencies and cost savings might be achieved for NSW exporters. Potential savings make exporters more competitive in the international market.

The Port of Newcastle has the existing rail infrastructure to service a container terminal and is also adequately linked by road. There is also sufficient land adjacent to the port to accommodate the development of a container terminal.

The movement of import and export cargo via Newcastle would result in fewer trucks on Sydney roads, a shorter journey time and less congestion on the busy Sydney rail network. This could also deliver cost savings for NSW consumers.

A Newcastle container terminal would be a complementary option to Port Botany, create further competition and provide importers and exporters with supply chain options for their cargo.

Increased competition is beneficial to NSW importers and exporters, consumers and the broader NSW economy.

Yours Sincerely

John Sommerland
Director Business & Community