



**Container Transport
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JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

1 April 2019

Sydney Empty Container Management – Transport Operators Welcome Productive Talks

Container Transport Alliance Australia (CTAA) collaborated with Road Freight NSW on Thursday, 28 March 2019 to bring together container transport logistics operators and empty container depot operators in Sydney for constructive discussions on pressing empty container management issues.

The meetings were supported strongly by NSW Ports and empty container management technology provider, Containerchain.

Stakeholders met with Qube Logistics and with DP World Logistics to discuss the operations of the two largest empty container depots in Sydney – Qube/MCS Cooks River and DPWL Parks 1 & 2, Port Botany.

CTAA Director, Neil Chambers, observed that “the costs of empty container management in Sydney have been increasing and chain efficiencies have been lacklustre for a range of reasons.”

“The meetings were timely, and a welcome opportunity to discuss:

- Empty container management capacity in Sydney – now and future needs;
- Empty container depot opening hours;
- Truck arrival patterns / adhering to notification windows / early & late truck arrival penalties;
- Redirections – providing adequate notice and honouring existing valid Containerchain truck arrival notifications;
- Working together to approach individual shipping lines who are still not providing electronic data interchange;
- Export container availability visibility; and
- Implementing Containerchain’s “eGate” functionality in Sydney to provide greater visibility of truck arrivals / gate processing times / truck servicing times.”

“We were really pleased with the candid and collaborative exchanges between the transport operators and empty depots. It is proof that industry stakeholders can effect change through mature dialogue and the appreciation of each other’s needs.” Neil Chambers said.

Road Freight NSW CEO, Simon O’Hara, echoed the positive sentiment. “Container transport operators are significant customers of the empty depots, paying considerably for Containerchain fees to do business with the depots.”

“It was refreshing that this is recognised by the depots and by Containerchain itself.”

“There are issues that transport operators and depots need to tackle together. These include:

- A coordinated approach to shipping lines to provide 100% electronic information exchange on empty container destinations;
- Adequate notice on empty container redirections; and

- Shipping lines considering the extension of container detention deadlines where external factors such as Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) fumigation cause delays in the landside logistics chain.”

“It’s clear from these initial meetings that we will be able to work collaboratively as a powerful combined force to approach shipping lines to achieve positive change.”

DP World Logistics Acts Following Consultations:

Subsequent to the meetings, DP World Logistics in Port Botany has acted to implement operational change:

- From Monday, 1 April 2019, DPWL has implemented “rolling” three-hour truck arrival notification window slot availability to better smooth truck bookings and arrivals;
- DPWL will honour existing truck arrival notifications within a 24-hour period of a redirection being issued; and
- DPWL will trial import de-hire capacity during the night-shift period of 10pm to 5am at Park 1, Port Botany (in addition to export empty pickups); and
- DPWL will continue to work with transport operators to facilitate ad-hoc additional notifications where possible, and to accommodate after hours’ bulk-runs where volumes are sufficient.

“CTAA and Road Freight NSW will liaise closely with DPW Logistics to measure the success of these initiatives over the next few months.” Neil Chambers said.

“This is the start of a new chapter in NSW to address empty container management issues at the industry level with a view to improving productivity, efficiency and cost effectiveness.”

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Queries regarding this Release can be directed to CTAA Director, Neil Chambers, 0413 662 263 / neil.chambers@ctaction.com.au or Road Freight NSW CEO, Simon O’Hara, 0400 188 825 / simon.ohara@rfnsw.com.au

Container Transport Alliance Australia (CTAA) is strong Alliance of leading businesses engaged in the container transport logistics industry. CTAA Alliance companies account for the majority of containerised freight handled in capital city ports in Australia.

Road Freight NSW is the peak industry organisation in NSW representing trucking operators.