



The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
Leader of the House

02 AUG 2013

Reference: 02555-2013

Ms Sharon Claydon
Labor Candidate for Newcastle
PO Box 1185
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

23 JUL 2013

Dear Ms Claydon

Thank you for your letter dated 27 June 2013 on behalf of Mr Greg Cameron of Florey, ACT, about the privatisation of the Port of Newcastle.

Mr Cameron's observations in his email, and previous correspondence regarding a potential solution to easing congestion associated with operating Port Botany as the major container port in NSW, demonstrate that he has given detailed consideration to this important issue. However I confirm that the Australian Government has no intention of acquiring a lease of the Port of Newcastle. Subject to its recently announced privatisation plans, the Port of Newcastle will remain a NSW Government responsibility.

I appreciate Mr Cameron's enthusiasm for achieving a viable and sustainable solution to the congestion that surrounds Port Botany through better utilisation of the Port of Newcastle. However without adequate compensation to the operator of Port Botany, the Port of Newcastle could only complement rather than replace the use of Port Botany as the major container port in NSW. I note that a costed proposal for the provision of a rail spur to a terminal at Eastern Creek is yet to be developed.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely



ANTHONY ALBANESE