



**Sharon Bird MP
Federal Member for Cunningham**

NEWS RELEASE

NSW Liberals policy on Port Kembla expansion unbelievable

Federal Member for Cunningham, Sharon Bird, said today the NSW Liberals policy to scrap the \$140 million investment in the Port of Port Kembla's expansion provided the Howard Government with an 'escape clause' to refuse AusLink funding for Wollongong's transport infrastructure.

“Wollongong has already been in a 5-year deep freeze on AusLink funding – receiving not a cent of the Howard Government's \$15 billion programme.

“The NSW Liberals policy to scrap the expansion of the Port of Port Kembla announced by the Member for Vaucluse on Friday would provide the Howard Government with an 'escape clause' to refuse funding for Wollongong in the next 5-year round to 2012.

“Aside from scrapping the Port's expansion, rubber-stamping the loss of jobs, and denying Wollongong the opportunity to develop new businesses, the NSW Liberals also intend to let the Howard Government off the hook on the next funding round of AusLink.

“The policy of the NSW Liberals on Port Kembla is simply unbelievable and unacceptable”, Ms Bird said.

She said the release of the draft Sydney-Wollongong corridor strategy confirmed that the expansion of the Port of Port Kembla would be significantly important to freight transport movement.

February 12, 2007