



*News Release*

*25 May 2009*

## **Pacifica Backs Parker's Call For Urgent Port Reforms**

A call by Port of Tauranga chairman John Parker for ports to be rationalised has come as a breath of fresh air in a stagnating sector, says Pacifica Shipping chief executive, Rod Grout.

Last week Mr Parker called on the Government to stimulate overdue reforms by requiring local bodies to put their port assets in independently-run holding companies.

“At last we are hearing some common sense from within the port sector itself, which mirrors what Pacifica has been saying for years,” Mr Grout said.

“For over a decade we have pointed out the commercial folly of port over-investment and duplication of facilities, which have inflated coastal shipping costs while reducing economic efficiency.

“We believe Mr Parker’s comments should be taken seriously by the Minister of Transport, Steven Joyce, as continuing to do nothing will increasingly hurt our exporters and trading prospects.”

Mr Grout said the strategic hub ports scenario described by Mr Parker echoed a call made by Pacifica last year for export container aggregation to take place in the upper North Island.

“Moving towards this concept now will deliver crucial flow-on effects for the well-being of our position in the global economy.

“It will provide a much-needed logistics pathway for New Zealand’s export and import flows for the next two decades as total freight volumes increase.

“Also it will commit our domestic transport modes to adopting the most cost-efficient and environmentally friendly methods of consigning goods.”

He said it would also balance out the flow of containers and equipment within the country, an issue causing growing concern amongst some industry players.

“On all these fronts, there can be no justification for delaying port reform, and it is Government that must lead the way.”

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