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MEDIA RELEASE

LPC INCREASE BERTH CAPACITY

Construction of the new wharf at Cashin Quay 2 will significantly boost berth capacity for Lyttelton Port of Christchurch (LPC).

The wharf rebuild is a key project for the South Island's busiest port, with the reinstatement of the wharf contributing to the overall efficiency and capacity of the terminal once complete.

As well as provide additional berth space, the wharf will be replaced with a slightly larger, deeper, stronger and more resilient structure.

Once complete, the container terminal will have a combined quay length of 570m and be able to accommodate two large container vessels at once. The berth will also be constructed to support a berth pocket depth of 14.5m. This signals a significant increase from the 410m of quay length available prior to the February 2011 earthquakes.

Cashin Quay 2 will be delivered in stages with the first 55 metre section available later this year and the full 230 metres complete towards the middle of 2015.

Chief Executive, Peter Davie, said the wharf development represents a positive step towards expanding the port and adding capacity to meet current and future growth, as well as improving customer and operational service levels.

"LPC is entering a new stage of growth with development of Cashin Quay 2 marking a significant increase in berth capacity," said Davie.

"The insurance settlement has provided the freedom to optimise facilities for the future.

"Cashin Quay 2 is being built to the highest standard using the latest technology and once complete will be the most seismically resilient wharf in New Zealand.

"It will have a deeper berth capable of accommodating larger vessels in the future and include a crane rail which wasn't in place prior to the earthquakes.

"The new berth will give us the ability to not only accommodate service growth but give us the capacity to manage off schedule vessels."

The completed Cashin Quay 2 will also be suitable for some non container trades when not in use for containers.

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