

Moss Vale car port 50-50

By Robyn Murray

Moss Vale has a 50/50 chance of being chosen as the distribution centre for cars imported through Port Kembla when Sydney Harbour wharfs close, Wingecarribee Shire Council economic management officer Carl Pemberton said.

Mr Pemberton told two public meetings that no decision had been made on the destination of Port Kembla containers and vehicle imports, and the Moss Vale proposal faced competition from other projects.

But the Moss Vale inland port does not rely on the site being chosen to handle part or all of the car imports and the associated vehicle pre-delivery industry.

"We are still hopeful that we might attract the car industry, as

we are the only area that can meet the deadline of the ports closure," Mr Pemberton said.

"But the whole concept does not depend on the car industry - that would be the cream on the cake."

Mr Pemberton said the two major developers who have already invested in the Moss Vale inland port had proceeded on the assumption that the bid for the car industry would not succeed.

Fortius Funds Management Group and AMP Capital have acquired land totalling 140ha on two sites in the economic enterprise zone (EEC) between Moss Vale and New Berrima.

St Henri Property Group has been appointed project manager for 110ha Fortius Funds Management site, with plans to develop an industrial and business

park.

However, in comparison to competitors such as Minto and Ingleburn, Moss Vale's bid for a share of car imports had benefited from the availability of a large area of land, relatively low land prices and an existing rail connection to Port Kembla.

A proposal near Wilton depends on completion of the Maldon to Dombarton railway, but the Federal Government's priority is to improve the competitiveness of the Moss Vale-Port Kembla line.

Mr Pemberton said that the inland port could be developed at zero cost to council.

"All the infrastructure has been declared as part of the AusLink network," he said.

"The Federal Government has now put in \$22 million for AusLink and that is good news for us."