



TOMAX  
NEWS

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PLUS:



# TARIFF CONCESSIONS GAZETTE (TC)

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Tariff Concession Orders (TCOs) are an Australian Government revenue concession that exists where there are no known Australian manufacturers of goods that are substitutable for imported goods.

The Tomax weekly Newsletters will contain a link to the most current Gazette so that you are up to date.

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# IMPACTS OF ISKENDERUN PORT CLOSURE

Following the closure of Iskenderun Port due to the devastating earthquakes in the region, data analytics company, Russell Group estimates it could cost around \$679m by the end of the month. Maersk said, “the port has unfortunately been subject to severe structural damage, leading to a complete stop of all operations until further notice.” The Danish carrier added that vendors were not moving any trucks in and around the area.

Russell Group’s analysis is based on modelling that looked at the actions of major shipping companies, “which are offering free cancellations, amendments and changes of destination on all shipments heading to Iskenderun, throughout February. Further analysis shows a \$36.7m disruption in iron and steel exports and \$51.4m in plastic materials imports is expected to be disrupted by the fire. These events don’t happen in isolation, there are ripple effects that are expected to be felt across other ports in the region and across supply chains.”

The first major shock toppled container stacks and sparked a major fire in Iskenderun’s terminal yard, which despite being reported as under control, has closed the port for an indefinite period.

Evergreen, in line with other carriers, announced it would divert Iskenderun-bound cargo to Mersin, which is located 200 km to the west. Maersk also advised that booking cancellations, amendments and destination changes for Iskenderun and Mersin would be accepted free of charge through to the end of the month, but added, “it is not yet clear when the port of Iskenderun will see a return to normal operations.” Iskenderun is one of the largest Turkish ports, by dollar revenue, with an annual flow of \$18bn of trade last year.

Meanwhile, Mersin port has 21 berths for various ship types, including ro-ro and containerships, and an annual throughput capacity of 2.6m TEU. It is currently uncertain whether land connections from Mersin to the earthquake-damaged areas are passable.



Savvides, N. (2023). Carriers offer free cancellations, amendments and diversion from Iskenderun. Retrieved from <https://theloadstar.com/carriers-offer-free-cancellations-amendments-and-diversion-from-iskenderun/> on 9th February, 2023.



# HMM'S NEW ONLINE EMPTY CONTAINER TRACKER



**S**outh Korea's flagship container carrier, HMM, has designed its own online system (HMM Container Interchange Platform) to locate and exchange empty containers with other companies.

"HMM Container Interchange Platform (HIP) is a self-developed service to quickly exchange HMM's containers with other companies' to resolve the container imbalance by region," said HMM.

Despite freight levels and port congestion normalising, the imbalance of container supply across regions remained a chronic problem. Back-haul shipments returning to Asia from Europe/North America are smaller than head-haul shipments, causing empty containers to pile up in Europe and North America.

The container processing delay during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, resulted in contracts being cancelled as domestic export companies could not find empty boxes.

Regardless of the logistical bottlenecks easing as global consumption and cargo volumes have decreased, major ports and liner operators are still focusing on recovering containers by imposing

demurrage fees if empty containers are not collected or returned on time. Normally, shipping lines instruct logistics companies to return empty containers to depots, however, during the early wave of the pandemic, when there were insufficient yard workers to unpack them, some ports found themselves overflowing with empty containers.

A HMM spokesperson said, "when we look through our service areas, not every location has sufficient container stock at all times. Shipping lines often experience an imbalance of containers between different regions. In that regard, we expect our container exchange platform will be beneficial to relocate our assets to container-deficient locations more efficiently."

HMM believes exchanging empty containers in each region with other liner operators or forwarders through HIP would speed up container relocation. They plan to upgrade HIP to settle costs incurred in the container exchange process.

Li, Martina. (2023). HMM creates digital system to track and move empty containers. Retrieved from <https://theloadstar.com/hmm-creates-digital-system-to-track-and-move-empty-containers/> on 10th February, 2023.



# PATRICK TERMINAL'S FEE HIKE

**F**rom 6th March, Australia's Patrick Terminals will increase its terminal charges, due to rising energy prices and wages, along with capital investments and rents, substantially increasing its costs.

**Import containers will be hardest hit, with charges of the following per full container:**

- AUD \$170.50 in Melbourne's East Swanson Dock
- AUD \$155.20 in Sydney
- AUD \$149.05 in Brisbane's Fisherman's Islands
- AUD \$61.54 in Fremantle

Patrick said that transport costs for shippers have decreased over the past 12 months, including those for exporters, but added: "Patrick will continue to maintain a concessional rate to support Australian exporters for the next 12 months, with the differential between import and export containers to be partially reduced from March."

**Export container charges will be set at:**

- AUD \$124,20 in Sydney

- AUD \$136.40 in Melbourne
- AUD \$119.25 in Brisbane
- AUD \$30.76 in Fremantle

**In addition to the container handling charges, Patrick has hiked its vehicle booking system fees from 6th March to:**

- AUD \$38.85 in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne (an increase of \$3.00)
- AUD \$46.05 in Fremantle (an increase of \$5.00)

Other fees are also increasing such as storage, yard handling and reefer services. Patrick Terminals embarked on an AUD \$300 million investment programme at its terminals three years ago, with AUD \$220 million already spent and a further AUD \$80 million put aside over the next 18 months to improve rail connections in Melbourne, Sydney and Fremantle. Further plans include an automated truck handling project in Brisbane and Sydney as well as straddle carriers and gate system upgrades.

Savvides, N. (2023). Patrick Terminals hikes fees for landside operations, blaming rising costs. Retrieved from <https://theloadstar.com/patrick-terminals-raises-fees-for-landside-operations-blaming-rising-costs/> on 9th February, 2023.





# NEW EMPTY CONTAINER PARK IN PORT OF NEWCASTLE

**T**he Port of Newcastle is establishing an empty container park at its Mayfield 4 berth, adjacent to its multipurpose terminal.

State member for Newcastle Tim Crakanthorp said, “how awesome is this, the port of Newcastle having this empty container park – the world’s biggest coal port does have to diversify. And here we are today diversifying. It was only a couple of months ago that we were opening up these amazing cranes that are the beginning of the container terminal’s progress to demonstrate to all of Australia and all of the world that Newcastle port is open for business when it comes to shipping containers.”

Craig Carmody, Port of Newcastle CEO, said in the financial year ending 30 June 2022, more than 60% of New South Wales’ exported containers were empty. He said, “empty container management is a vital function for efficient container trade operations. Empty container parks aid in managing the imbalance between imports and exports that exists within Australian container operations by assisting container flow.”

Agri-businesses throughout the Hunter, New England and NSW’s north west would be beneficiaries of its new empty container service. Kate McArthur, Port of Newcastle senior manager of business development, said future access to a

ready supply of empty containers would enable farmers to export more produce. She stated, “having access to empty containers aids speed to market, which allows exporters to take advantage of opportunities and capitalise on good prices. We are hopeful that by working with farmers, business owners and other key stakeholders we can continue to develop infrastructure to better serve the needs of our future customers. A challenge for agri-businesses, particularly in the last few seasons, has been accessing empty containers to fill and send back to port. With growth of our operations and capabilities, we aim, over time, to fill this gap in the market and ensure our farmers and agri-businesses have every opportunity to take full advantage of large harvest seasons and export their product effectively and efficiently.”

Back-of-berth hardstand expansion works are now underway at the Multipurpose Terminal, with waterside works to commence later this year to accommodate larger vessels. Ms McArthur said the empty container park would begin as a storage facility that would grow into maintenance and cleaning facilities. The new facility would be operated by Port of Newcastle and have a capacity of 2000 TEU.

Ackerman, I. (2023). PORT OF NEWCASTLE ANNOUNCES EMPTY CONTAINER PARK PROJECT. Retrieved from <https://www.thedcn.com.au/news/ports/port-of-newcastle-announces-empty-container-park/> on 8th February, 2023.

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT



## MEET SHERRY WANG

**IMPORT OPERATIONS CLERK**  
TOMAX LOGISTICS AUSTRALIA

### What is your role at Tomax?

I am an Import Operations Clerk.

### What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

Driving to the country side, dining out and visiting the wineries.

### Your favourite cuisine and restaurant?

Spanish Tapas on the waterfront in Docklands.

### Name something you are scared of?

Snakes!



### Your proudest achievement?

I went to Antarctica solo before lockdown.

### Next travel destination on your list?

Galapagos Islands.

### Which season is your favourite and why?

Autumn, because it has colourful leaves and harvest. It also reminds me that winter is not far away!



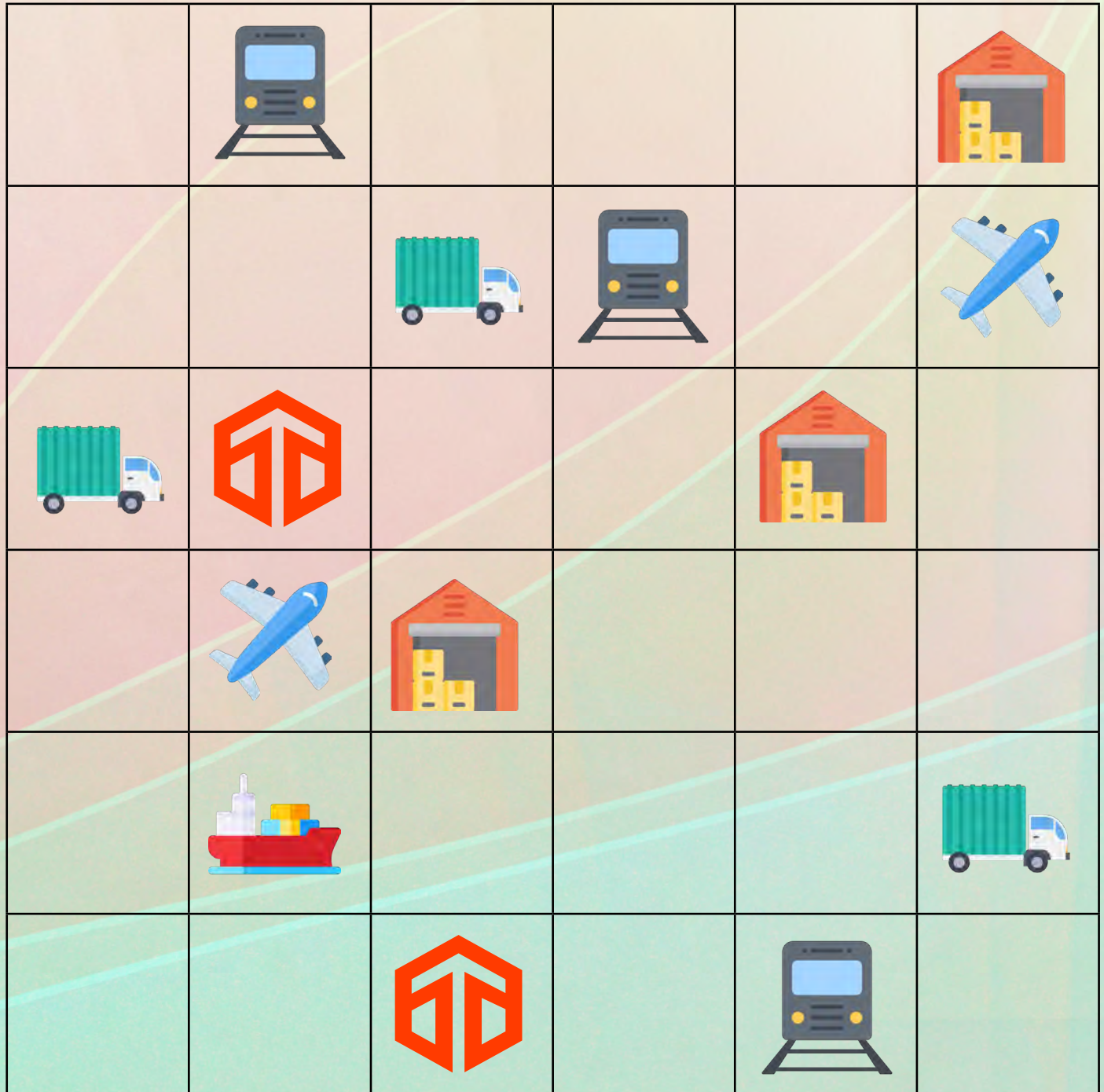
Top left: Sherry's adorable cat, Indie, named after Indiana Jones!

Left: Sherry's solo trip to Antarctica.



# SOLVE THE SUDOKU

See if you can solve the following Sudoku puzzle!  
Answers will be revealed in next week's Tomax Newsletter.



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