



TOMAX
NEWS

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PLUS:

MARKET SUMMARY

- Shipping lines servicing the South-bound East-Asia to Australia trade-lane have made a further GRI announcement to be implemented from 15th August 2023. This is on top of the increase already announced for 1st August which has been successfully implemented by shipping lines with most lines being overbooked and rolling cargo. Rates are expected to hit around USD 1,000 per 40' once the next GRI kicks in.
- Shipping lines have also started making moves to increase their profits through higher terminal and port charges levied on importers and exporters. Tomax

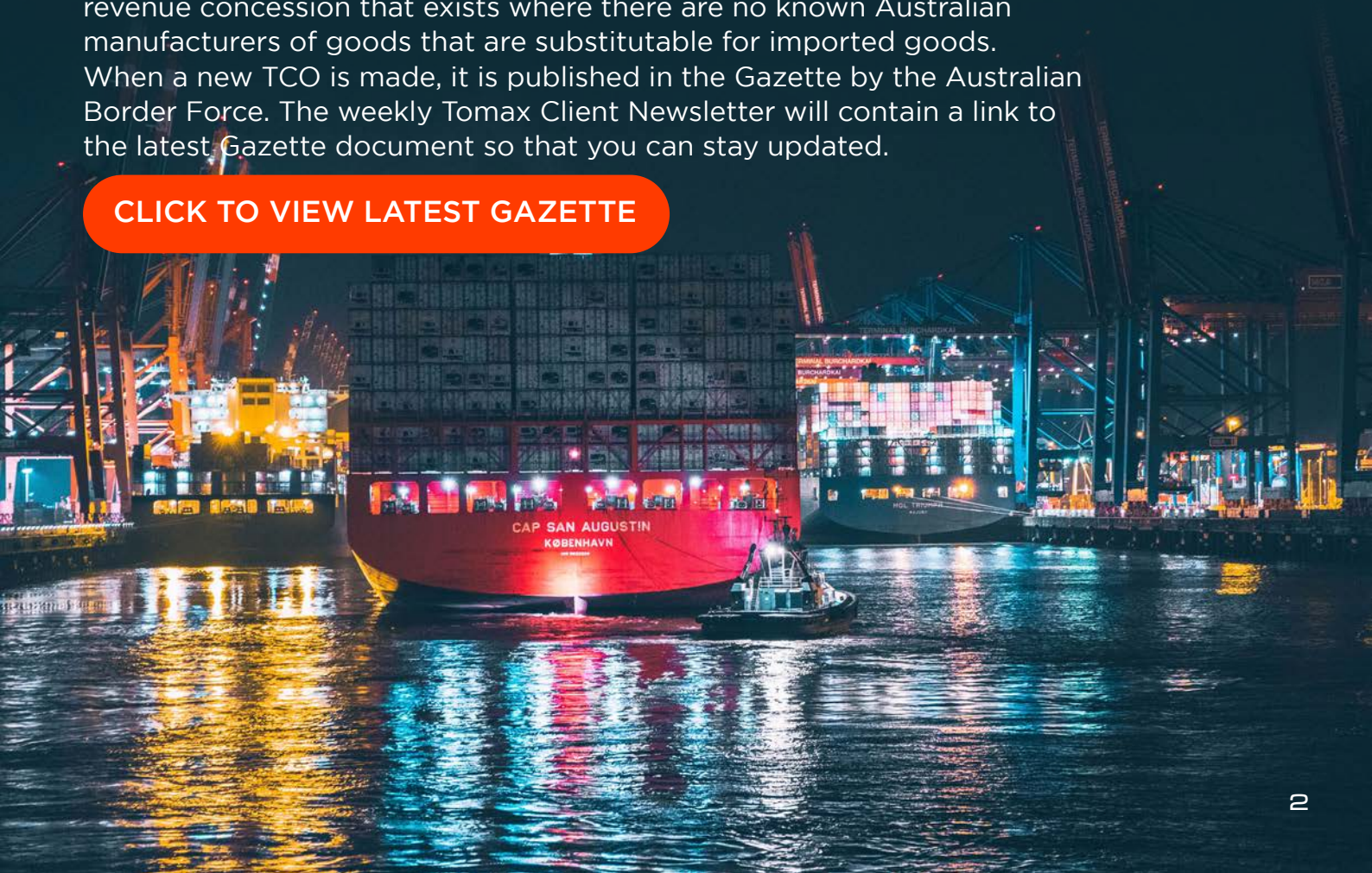
has requested further information from shipping lines on how they are justifying these increases as the notices sent out give no information at all as to why the increases are being implemented.

- Do you need overflow warehousing services to store your cargo? Tomax can help you! We have warehouses all over Australia and are ready to help you reduce costs and streamline your operations via our experienced warehousing team. Talk to us today about how we can solve any warehousing problems you have on 1300 1 TOMAX.

TARIFF CONCESSIONS GAZETTE (TC)

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. When a new TCO is made, it is published in the Gazette by the Australian Border Force. The weekly Tomax Client Newsletter will contain a link to the latest Gazette document so that you can stay updated.

[CLICK TO VIEW LATEST GAZETTE](#)





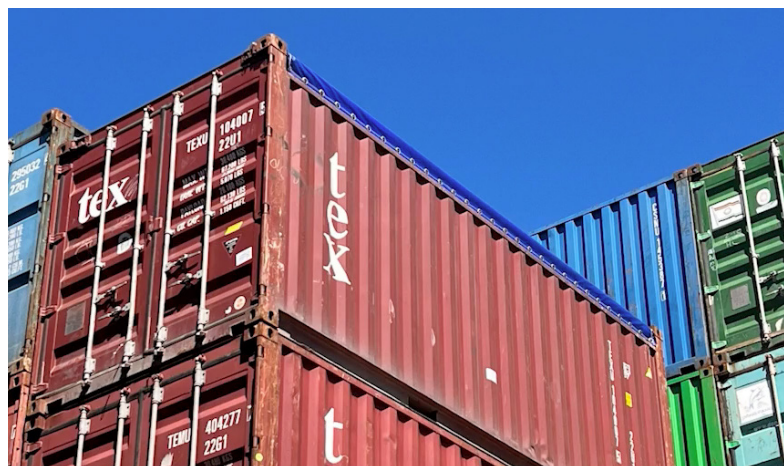
RURAL TAILGATE INSPECTION AWARENESS VIDEO

The Class 14.4: Rural tailgate inspection awareness video has been developed to provide detailed information to assist class 14.4 BIPs to comply with the conditions of their arrangement.

The support materials include information on industry direction types, identification and management of biosecurity risks with the container, release of containers from biosecurity control and reporting of inspection outcomes to the department.

A link to the video can be found by clicking the below:

[WATCH RURAL TAILGATE VIDEO](#)



AUSSIES' STRATEGIC ONLINE SHOPPING AMID COST-OF-LIVING PRESSURES

Australia Post's latest Inside Australian Online Shopping Report reveals a shift in Australian consumer behaviour as cost-of-living pressures continue to impact spending habits. With consumer confidence at low levels, Aussies, especially younger generations, are becoming "strategic shoppers," seeking ways to maximise the value of their money and capitalising on key sales events.

Gary Starr, Australia Post's Executive General Manager of Parcel, Post, and E-commerce Services, highlights that while more households made online purchases in the fourth quarter compared to the previous year, the effect of cost-of-living pressures is evident. Online shopping carts are now averaging smaller sizes than before, reflecting cautious and selective spending.

Despite a slow start to 2023 for online retailers, May showed a 5.7 percent increase compared to last year, driven mainly by May sales events. However, overall online purchases have softened, with a 3.1 percent decrease in online spending compared to the previous year.

The report indicates that 9.4 million households, accounting for 82 percent of the Australian population, made online purchases during the 2023 financial year. The last quarter of the financial year saw an average of 5.5 million households making monthly online purchases, a 3.9

percent increase from the same period last year.

The report also sheds light on the shopping behaviour of young Australians aged 18 to 34, with 85 percent planning to participate in or having already shopped during dedicated sales events. The popularity of customer loyalty programs and bundled services among online shoppers is evident, with one in four consumers opting for online retail subscriptions as part of their cost-saving practices.

Interestingly, regional areas in Australia are experiencing higher year-on-year growth in online shopping compared to metro areas. For example, regional Australia saw a 4.2 percent YoY growth in the last quarter, while metro areas only experienced a 0.7 percent YoY growth.

In response to changing consumer needs, Australia Post continues to invest in new parcel facilities, fleet, and technology. This includes the installation of over 700 parcel lockers and the Australia Post app, allowing customers to conveniently track parcels and manage deliveries and collections using their mobile devices. These efforts are aimed at adapting to the evolving demands of online shoppers in the country.



Misuraca, J. (2023). AusPost report reveals shoppers more selective. Retrieved from <https://mhdsupplychain.com.au/2023/08/01/auspost-report-reveals-shoppers-more-selective/> on 3rd August, 2023.



FIRE EXTINGUISHED ON FREMANTLE HIGHWAY, MORE ELECTRIC VEHICLES REVEALED

The fire on the car-carrier Fremantle Highway has finally been extinguished after almost a week, according to Dutch authorities. Early reports indicated the vessel carried only 25 electric vehicles (EVs), but later investigations unveiled a significantly higher number of EVs onboard, making up a larger proportion compared to the vessel Felicity Ace, which sank in a similar fire incident last year.

Despite the severity of the fire, the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Waste Management confirmed that there were no hull breaches below the waterline, easing concerns about the vessel sinking at the moment.

Tragically, an Indian crew member lost their life in the fire, while 22 others were taken to the hospital with injuries, some resorting to jumping into the sea from the deck to escape. The fire had engulfed the upper deck, rendering two lifeboats inaccessible.

Authorities are now closely monitoring the stability of the vessel, and ships have been advised to maintain a distance of two miles while approaching.

Fremantle Highway has been towed to a location 10 miles north of the Netherlands' Schiermonnikoog and Ameland islands,

where it will remain until a salvage strategy is devised by the authorities.

In the aftermath, criticisms have emerged in Dutch newspaper Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant regarding the outsourcing of helicopter services. Coastguard helicopters, rented from the British-American company Bristow, took twice as long as they should have to arrive at the scene, taking 40 and 49 minutes, in contrast to the coast guard standard of 20 minutes.

This delay is being blamed for the decision by seven of Fremantle Highway's crew to jump overboard, as limited seating meant two helicopters were required for the firefighting team.

The NRC report further reveals that the responsible minister, Mark Harbers, had been warned during the tendering process about the company's inability to keep its promises regarding response time. Despite this, the minister had vouched for the "international company with years of experience" achieving a response time of ten minutes.

Bartlett, C. (2023). Fremantle Highway blaze finally extinguished, say authorities. Retrieved from <https://theloadstar.com/fremantle-highway-blaze-finally-extinguished-say-authorities/> on 3rd August, 2023.



PREVENTING INVASIVE SPECIES VIA SEA CONTAINERS: IPPC'S GLOBAL TRADE SAFEGUARD

Every year, a staggering 241 million containers traverse the oceans, carrying an array of goods from food and medicines to raw materials and luxury items. Trade plays a vital role in maintaining the global economy and fostering societal growth. However, this crucial activity also brings certain risks, as pests and plants can hitchhike in cargo and containers, causing severe damage when they invade new ecosystems. To address this issue, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) has united industry and government to devise innovative solutions that prevent the transfer of invasive species via sea containers between continents.

The risk of hitchhiker pests travelling through sea containers and imported goods is not to be underestimated, with potential costs being substantial. For instance, an outbreak of khapra beetle in

Australia alone is estimated to result in \$15.5 billion of eradication costs and lost markets over a two-decade period.

Given the vast scale of trade, the diverse range of goods, and the myriad of shipping routes connecting continents, stopping invasive species without disrupting international trade or making it economically unfeasible presents a daunting challenge. Nevertheless, the IPPC, in collaboration with regulatory authorities and industry players, is diligently working towards practical and effective solutions that mitigate the global movement of hitchhiker pests.

One promising approach under consideration involves exploring modifications to the structure of sea containers. To investigate this potential solution, the Australian Government has commissioned a research project with Murdoch University's Harry Butler

Institute. The study aims to identify structural design improvements that would reduce spaces within sea containers where hitchhiker pests can hide and contaminants can accumulate.

One critical challenge identified lies in the interfaces around floors and supporting structures of sea containers, where hitchhiker pests are commonly found. These interfaces include cross members, floor joists, forklift pockets, corner fittings, the floor-wall interface, and container corners. The cracks and crevices in the wooden flooring also pose significant concerns, providing ample hiding spots for pests and plant materials.

A notorious example is the khapra beetle, which can survive in cracks and under wooden floorboards for years without food. When favourable conditions arise, such as finding a food source like grain residue, khapra beetles can re-emerge and rapidly multiply, contaminating the container's contents.

Structural modifications to container designs have proven effective in minimising hitchhiker pest risks. Chevron Australia, for instance, invested significantly in sea container redesign, replacing wooden floorboards with steel floors, leading to a notable reduction in hitchhiker pest and contaminant risks.

While addressing pest contamination in the container pathway is crucial, it is equally vital to ensure the smooth movement of sea containers to avoid

disruptions in global trade. Delays, even minor ones, can have far-reaching and costly consequences for international supply chains. Therefore, regulatory authorities and industry must work in tandem to devise practical and cost-effective solutions that align with typical container replacement cycles.

Several countries have enforced regulations, and certain global supply chains have embraced best practices to minimise hitchhiker and contaminant risks. Measures include preventing pests and contaminants from entering containers, implementing pesticide or heat treatment for detected organisms, and conducting regular inspections. However, inspections and treatments are not fool-proof and can be time-consuming and costly. Consequently, prevention through structural changes in containers is seen as a preferred approach by the parties involved.

Osama El-Lissy, the IPPC Secretary, acknowledges the significance of the public-private partnership in addressing potential pest risks associated with the global movement of sea containers while ensuring trade flows smoothly without unnecessary delays.

IPPC. (2023). LEADING SEA CONTAINER INDUSTRY BODIES AND GOVERNMENT JOIN HANDS TO SEEK SOLUTIONS FOR REDUCING PLANT HEALTH AND BIODIVERSITY RISKS. Retrieved from <https://www.thedcn.com.au/sponsored-content/leading-sea-container-industry-bodies-and-government-join-hands-to-look-for-solutions-for-reducing-plant-health-and-biodiversity-risks/> on 4th August, 2023.



AUSTRALIAN RAIL TRACK CORPORATION'S FREIGHT RAIL MAINTENANCE SHUTDOWNS

The Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) has scheduled significant maintenance shutdowns for two key freight rail routes in the upcoming days.

One of the shutdowns will focus on the New South Wales North Coast network, covering areas between Telarah and Acacia Ridge in Queensland. This maintenance work, taking place from Saturday (5 August) to Monday (7 August), is essential to ensure a safe and reliable network. The tasks include rerailing, re-sleepering, track resurfacing, ballasting, and extensive rail replacement efforts, particularly in the section between Taree and Coffs Harbour.

The second shutdown will address maintenance needs on the Hunter Valley Network, spanning from Newcastle to Boggabri, Ulan, and Turravan. Running from Saturday (5 August) to Tuesday (8 August), the work involves rail and sleeper replacements in critical areas such as Islington, Thornton, Scone, and Werris Creek.

The ARTC plans to conduct over 140 separate maintenance activities throughout the weekend, with an emphasis on completing the tasks safely and efficiently. The maintenance is expected to begin around 0300 on Saturday and conclude around 1500 on Tuesday.

Ackerman, I. (2023). TWO SIGNIFICANT EAST-COAST FREIGHT LINES SHUTTING DOWN FOR MAINTENANCE. Retrieved from <https://www.thedcn.com.au/news/logistics-and-supply-chain/two-significant-east-coast-freight-lines-shutting-down-for-maintenance/> on 3rd August, 2023.



FRIDAY FUNNIES

We hope these jokes can put a smile on your face as we welcome another weekend!

Did you hear about these new reversible jackets? I'm excited to see how they turn out.

A friend of mine tried to annoy me with bird puns, but toucan play at that game.

Doctor: "Sir, I'm afraid your DNA is backwards."

Me: "And?"

Thanks for explaining the word "many" to me, it means a lot.

Want to hear a joke about paper? Nevermind, it's tearable.

A Spanish magician was doing a magic trick. He said, "Uno, dos..." and he disappeared without a trace.

This morning my alarm went off. I thought it's use-by date was tomorrow...

A guy was admitted to hospital with eight plastic horses in his stomach. His condition is stable.

I got fired from the candle factory because I refused to work wick ends!

I need to stop drinking so much milk. It's an udder disgrace.

I used to build stairs for a living. Business was up and down.

My landlord says he needs to come talk to me about how high my heating bill is. I told him, "My door is always open".

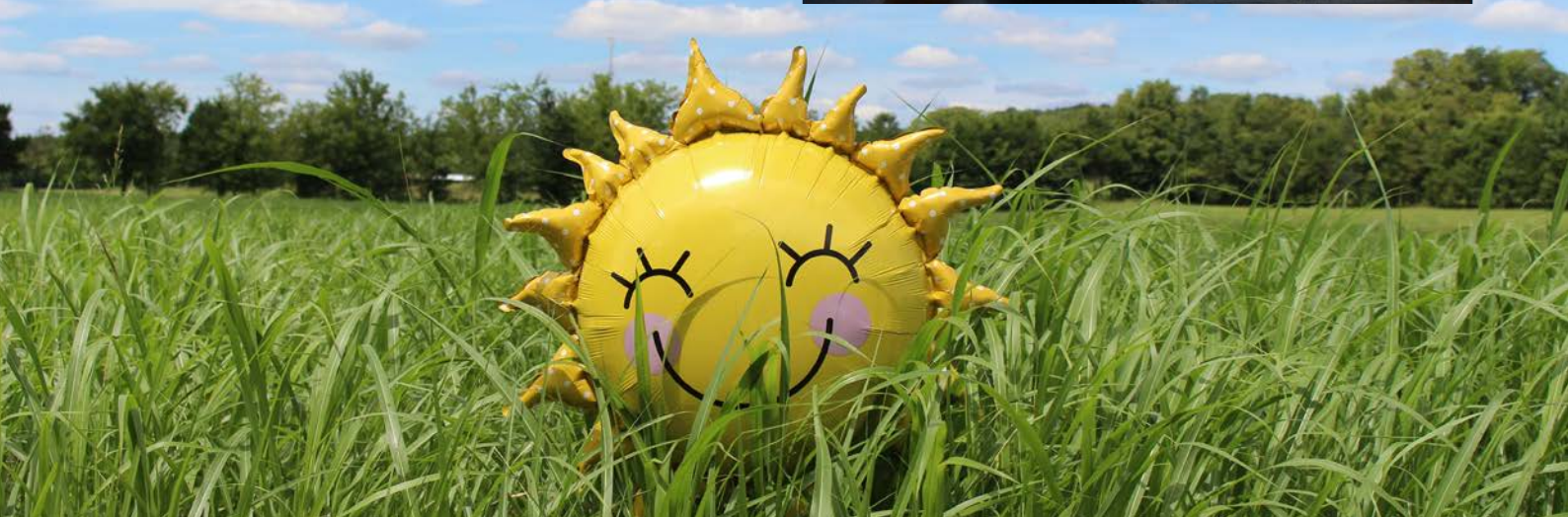
Police have arrested the World Tongue-Twister Champion. I imagine he'll be given a tough sentence.

My new girlfriend works at the zoo. I think she's a keeper.

Two windmills are standing in a field and one asks the other, "what kind of music do you like?"

The other says, "I'm a big metal fan."

Answers from last week's ['Spot the Differences'](#)



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