



TOMAX
NEWS

Issue 155
9th February 2024

PLUS:



MARKET SUMMARY

- Happy Chinese New Year to all our partners and customers around the world who are gearing up for a week of celebrations! May the Year of the Dragon bring you luck, wealth, health and joy.
- Congestion in Australian ports is set to ease significantly with an agreement finally reached between DP World and the MUA on the EBA negotiations. In conjunction with the Chinese New Year shut down which brings reduced inbound volumes to Australian ports over a 2-3 week period, it is expected that pressure on supply chain systems will ease and ocean freight rates will also drop.



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.

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TASPORTS PILOTS RESUME INDUSTRIAL ACTION

TasPorts marine pilots are once again initiating industrial action amid an ongoing dispute with their employer.

Starting from Wednesday, February 7th at 12pm, the pilots will resume the work bans and stoppages that were previously suspended during what seemed to be positive negotiations for a new enterprise agreement. Their industrial action encompasses work stoppages on Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays, as well as a ban on working outside regular rostered hours, communicating with agents and schedulers, and providing pilotage services at night.

Furthermore, TasPorts has been informed of additional industrial action scheduled for Thursday, February 8th:

- the northwest pilot group will stop work for four hours beginning at 1000,
- the northern pilot group will stop work for four hours beginning at 1700, and
- the southern pilot group will stop work for four hours beginning at 0600.

All work stoppages and bans include exemptions for emergencies.

Represented by the Australian Maritime Officers Union, TasPorts pilots have been escalating industrial action since January 19th 2024, impacting cruise visits to Tasmania.

Anthony Donald, TasPorts CEO, expressed disappointment at the decision to resume protected action. He stated that TasPorts had offered pilots an updated salary increase proposal of 12% to 14.25% over three years, contingent on productivity enhancements.

Donald mentioned that the AMOU had sought assistance from the Fair Work Commission to address the bargaining dispute, withdrawing from a scheduled bargaining meeting on February 5th.

The AMOU emphasised that pilots are seeking improvements to align with marine pilots in other parts of Australia. They criticised TasPorts for not applying national employment standards to their marine pilots despite operating in a national employment market.

The union highlighted their willingness to engage in genuine negotiations and suspended protected industrial action in an effort to facilitate fruitful discussions. However, TasPorts allegedly failed to adequately address pilots' outstanding claims and introduced additional claims under the pretext of productivity improvements.

The union expressed a desire to resume meaningful negotiations promptly to minimise disruptions to Tasmanian businesses and economies.

TasPorts pledged to prioritise efforts to explore alternative options and strategies to mitigate the impact of the industrial action.

Donald expressed optimism for upcoming meetings facilitated by the FWC and hoped for a sensible resolution to prevent further economic and reputational repercussions on customers, communities, tourism, and the state.

Williams, A. (2024). Tasports Pilots Relaunch Industrial Action. Retrieved from <https://www.thedcn.com.au/subscriber-content/tasports-pilots-relaunch-industrial-action/> on 7th February, 2024.



VEHICLE IMPORTS FACE BIOSECURITY CHALLENGES

Australia continues to grapple with biosecurity challenges affecting the importation of both new and used vehicles, as highlighted by a recent incident involving a shipment of electric vehicles. A vessel carrying over 3700 electric vehicles from South Korea and China was flagged for multiple detections, including the presence of the brown marmorated stink bug. Although the vessel initially anchored off Brisbane, it chose to depart Australia voluntarily to address the biosecurity risk offshore and has not returned since.

A spokesperson from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry confirmed that the vessel was scheduled for a multi-port discharge, and there had been several reports of seasonal pests leading up to this detection. The period from September to April marks the peak season for invasive species, particularly the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB), with 23 live detections at the border since the current season began.

Each detection is managed individually, with close collaboration between the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the vessel to mitigate the biosecurity risk before allowing vehicle discharge, according to the spokesperson.

The CSIRO emphasises that materials such as soil, plant debris, seeds, and live insects pose significant biosecurity threats during car imports, with potentially devastating consequences if left undetected. Since 2021, Australia's ports have witnessed an

88% increase in new vehicles arriving with biosecurity risk material contamination, coinciding with a 17% rise in the total number of new vehicle imports.

To address these challenges, the CSIRO and other agencies are collaborating on the development of an app to assist biosecurity officers in accurately identifying the BMSB, which closely resembles many native stink bug species. The app aims to streamline the identification process.

Botanist Alexander Schmidt-Lebuhn utilised artificial intelligence (AI) to create a prototype of an easy-to-use stink bug identification app. By capturing detailed digital images of thousands of expertly identified stink bug specimens, AI models were trained to differentiate the BMSB from similar-looking species commonly encountered by biosecurity officers.

Following successful testing at ports and airports across Australia, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, in collaboration with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water, is working on further developing and integrating the app into their data infrastructure. Dr. Schmidt-Lebuhn also mentions ongoing efforts to develop an AI model capable of identifying priority weed seeds, which present similar challenges in correct identification.

Crisp, D. (2024). STINKY BEETLES BUG EVS BUT APP ON THE WAY. Retrieved from <https://www.thedcn.com.au/news/stinky-beetles-bug-evs-but-app-on-the-way/> on 8th February, 2024.



TWO ARRESTED IN \$45 MILLION COCAINE SEIZURE

Two individuals are now facing potential life sentences after their arrest in Adelaide, where authorities uncovered 139 kilograms of cocaine hidden within a shipment of luxury buses, with a street value of \$45 million. The two men, aged 22 and 19 from Victoria, will appear before the Port Adelaide Magistrates Court after attempting to procure a commercial quantity of cocaine.

Dubbed 'Operation Silkwood', the investigation commenced in January after intelligence pinpointed an alleged cocaine importation scheme concealed within a shipment of 13 luxury buses destined for Adelaide via Perth aboard an international cargo vessel.

Australian Border Force (ABF) officers launched a search of the buses on January 28th upon the ship's arrival at Fremantle Harbour. During the search, officers discovered several packages within four of the buses containing cocaine which were confirmed through subsequent testing. The case was then referred to the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

Upon their arrival in Adelaide, the buses were offloaded, with ABF and South Australia Police working in tandem during the operation. On February 3rd, the suspects allegedly broke into the buses to retrieve the contraband, leading to their subsequent arrest at a Port Adelaide hotel. They were denied bail and remanded in custody, facing a potential life sentence if convicted.

Detective Superintendent Melinda Adam of the AFP emphasised the relentless efforts of

law enforcement in combating transnational organised crime syndicates aiming to smuggle drugs into Australia. She praised the collaborative approach of the AFP with both international and domestic partners to safeguard the Australian community.

ABF Superintendent Andrew Dawson highlighted the significance of the ABF and AFP's close coordination in protecting Australian communities, particularly amidst a surge in global trafficking and reinforced the unyielding commitment to defending Australia's borders against organised crime syndicates driven by greed and profit.

The seizure of 139 kilograms of cocaine not only averted potential harm to communities and the economy but also disrupted an estimated 695,000 individual street deals. The AFP urged the public to share any information regarding suspicious activities around Port Adelaide or Mansfield Park from February 2nd to February 3rd, 2024.



Jones, M. (2024). Border Force Stops Cocaine. Retrieved from <https://www.thedcn.com.au/subscriber-content/border-force-stops-cocaine/> 6th February, 2024.



SUPPLY CHAIN EVOLUTION: CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

In 2023, a confluence of geopolitical tensions, extreme weather events, and economic uncertainties severely tested global supply chains, highlighting the need for resilience in the face of adversity. As we enter 2024, there is growing optimism among leaders regarding the resilience of supply chains. However, the importance of embracing data-driven decision-making and contingency planning cannot be overstated.

As consumer behavior evolves amidst socioeconomic volatility, businesses are under pressure to swiftly adapt to shifts in demand and ensure efficient fulfillment processes. While this remains a significant challenge, advancements in technology are providing solutions that enhance agility, transparency, and predictability in supply chain management.

Warehouse automation, propelled by robotics and smart systems, is experiencing rapid acceleration. Technologies such as Autonomous Mobile Robots (AMRs) are revolutionising inventory management by optimising workflows, while automated storage and retrieval systems are increasing efficiency and enabling faster order processing. Additionally, cognitive automation through Robotic Process Automation (RPA) and conversational AI is streamlining administrative tasks for businesses.

Studies have shown that automated warehouses can significantly reduce operating costs and increase throughput velocity. Moreover, organisations leveraging security AI and automation extensively have reported substantial savings compared to those that do not, particularly in mitigating the costs of data breaches, which continue to escalate annually.

To fully harness advanced technologies like cloud computing, predictive analytics, and artificial intelligence, companies must establish integrated digital foundations across

their supply chains. Central to this effort is the collection and analysis of relevant customer, sales, and product data, enabling informed decision-making, real-time visibility, and optimised operations.

While automation and analytics drive supply chain advancements, the role of human talent remains essential. Collaboration between humans and machines, facilitated by technologies like cobots, enhances productivity and safety in warehouse operations. This necessitates investment in workforce readiness and continuous skill development to maximise the benefits of technology adoption.

The pandemic highlighted the importance of omnichannel fulfillment, requiring businesses to optimise their supply chains to accommodate various channels seamlessly. Technologies such as Order Management Systems are instrumental in improving fulfillment efficiency and customer satisfaction, particularly in an era characterised by online returns and same-day delivery expectations.

Looking ahead, the future of supply chains lies in highly automated systems that leverage sensors, artificial intelligence, and cloud platforms to automate decision-making and optimise logistics. While capital constraints may hinder the adoption of traditional warehouse technologies, flexible automation solutions offer opportunities for businesses of all sizes to embrace innovative technologies without significant upfront investments. Businesses worldwide are harnessing the power of automation, software, and artificial intelligence to gain a competitive edge, setting a new standard for supply chain efficiency and resilience.

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THURSDAY 7TH MARCH 2024

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STAFF SPOTLIGHT

MEET HARRISON DOYLE OFFSIDER TOMAX TRANSPORT QLD



What is your role at Tomax?

My role at Tomax is Removalist Offsider in QLD.

Name your hobbies/interests?

My hobbies include social golf and four-wheel driving.

If you won the lottery, what's the first thing you would buy?

If I won, the lottery the first thing I would buy would be an acreage property.

Your favourite place to travel to?

My favourite place to travel would be the French Polynesian Islands.
(Pictured below)!

Any goals you would like to achieve?

My goal I would like to achieve is to get my Certificate 3 in Warehousing & Logistics.

Favourite childhood memory?

My favourite childhood memory was watching the matildas play in the World Cup,.

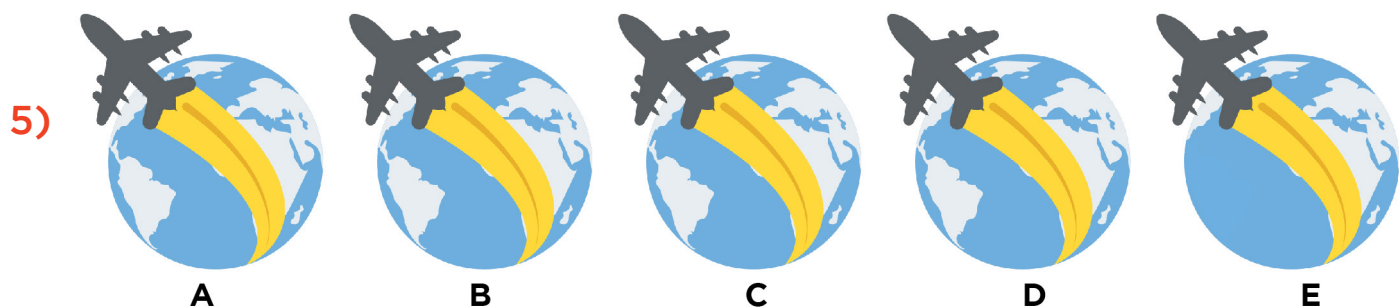
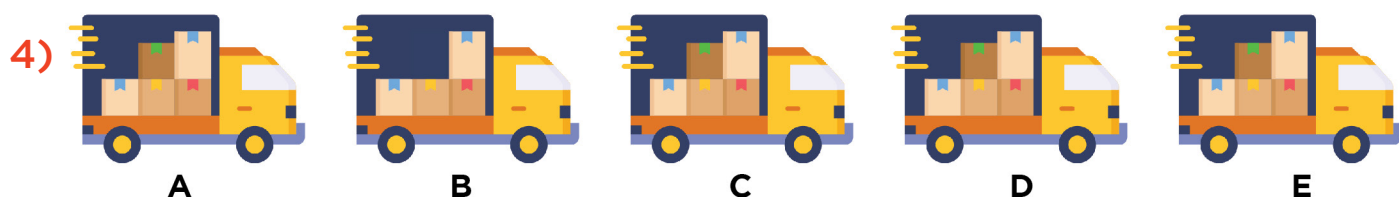
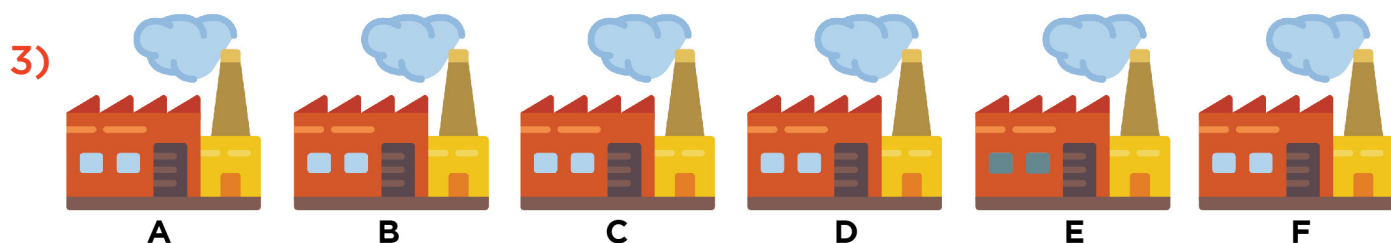
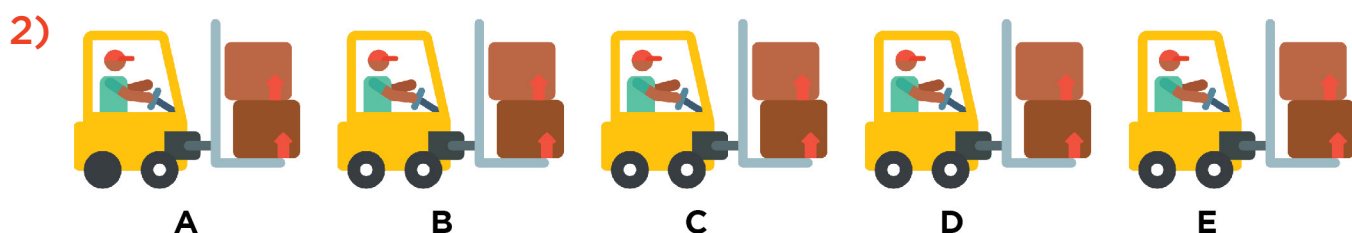
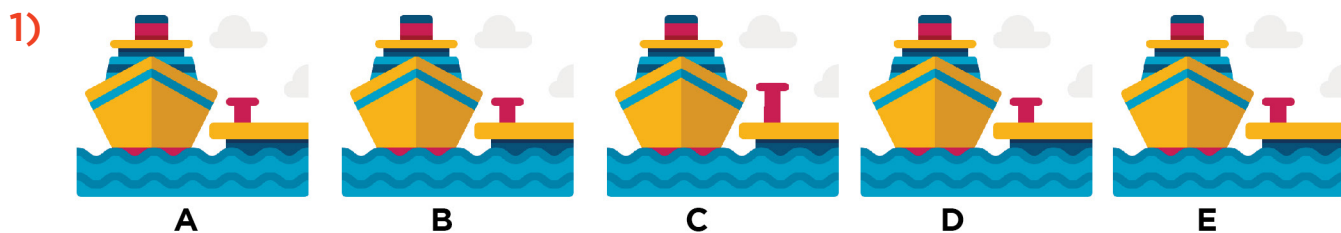
What kind of music do you listen to?

I listen to all different types of music so I don't mind a mix of genres.



SPOT THE ODD ONE OUT

See if you can spot the odd one out in each sequence?



Answers: 1)C, 2)A, 3)E, 4)B, 5)E