



**TOMAX
NEWS**

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PLUS:



MARKET SUMMARY

- Southbound volumes into Australia remain reasonably stable giving shipping lines hope that they can get further price increases through in May. Lines are continuing to also use blank sailings and route changes in order to manipulate the market to their benefit. Recent poor weather in Sydney has caused some serious congestion also resulting in some vessels choosing to bypass Sydney or skip

it to return at a later time. We can expect these issues to add to the upward freight pricing pressure.

- Domestic warehousing space and industrial lease demand continues to increase with 3PL rates rising around the country. Tomax provides warehousing services in all Australian ports so if you need any assistance please reach out to your friendly Tomax team member.

- Interest rates remained on hold in April but domestic demand for non-fashion related goods seems to be holding and businesses are reasonably buoyant about the coming months.

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. 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](#)

2025-26 BUDGET: \$17.1 BILLION FOR TRANSPORT

The 2025-26 Budget allocates \$17.1 billion through the Infrastructure Investment Program for both new and ongoing road and rail infrastructure projects. These investments aim to strengthen and enhance the efficiency of Australia's road and rail networks, improving freight movement across the country.

Key projects supported by the Budget include:

- \$7.2 billion for safety improvements on Queensland's Bruce Highway.
- Over \$2.3 billion for vital infrastructure upgrades in Western Sydney, including the South West Sydney Rail Extension and the Fifteenth Avenue project.
- \$465 million for regional projects in New South Wales, such as upgrading Mona Vale Road and reducing travel times on Terrigal Drive.
- \$2 billion to enhance Sunshine Station in Victoria, paving the way for Melbourne Airport's first rail link.
- \$1 billion for the Road Blitz program to boost efficiency in Melbourne's suburbs and surrounding areas.
- \$350 million for upgrades to the Westport – Kwinana Freeway in Western Australia.
- \$200 million to duplicate sections of the Stuart Highway between Darwin and Katherine in the Northern Territory.
- \$200 million to improve Tasmania's Arthur Highway.

- \$125 million for the Curtis Road Level Crossing Removal project in South Australia.
- \$50 million to upgrade the Monaro Highway in the Australian Capital Territory.
- An additional \$200 million to ensure the timely delivery of the Rockhampton Ring Road in Queensland.
- Another \$70 million to complete the sealing of the final 11 kilometers of unsealed pavement on Queensland's Kennedy Developmental Road between The Lynd and Hughenden.

Moreover, funding for the Roads to Recovery Program will gradually increase to \$1 billion per year, and the Black Spot Program's funding will reach \$150 million per year.

The Budget also allocates \$16.9 million for the maritime industry, including \$14.4 million over four years to improve access to training berths at sea and \$2.5 million for the Transport and Logistics Jobs and Skills Council to address training barriers.

Additionally, the Government will invest \$32.7 million in safety and regulatory services, supporting the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

This budget reflects the Government's commitment to driving job creation, improving productivity, and enhancing safety across Australia's transport sector.

Tan, A. (2025). 2025-26 Budget to improve freight delivery. Retrieved from <https://mhdsupplychain.com.au/2025/03/28/2025-26-budget-to-improve-freight-delivery/> on 2nd April, 2025.



Budget 2025-26

PATRICK TERMINAL CLOSURE: MARITIME UNION AUSTRALIA

Please be advised that there will be an authorised Maritime Union Australia (MUA) Stop Work Meeting held at both Patrick Vic Terminal and Patrick Brisbane Terminal. The dates and times of the meetings are as follows:

Patrick Vic Terminal

Monday 7th April from 11:00 am until 3:00pm.
There will be a limited number of slots available leading up to the meeting and no slots vacant during the meeting.

Patrick Brisbane Autostrad Terminal

Tuesday 8th April from 7:00am until 11:00am.
All Ship and Yard operations will be ceased.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact one of our Tomax team members on 1300 186 629.





U.S.A. IMPOSES 10% TARIFF ON AUSTRALIAN IMPORTS

The United States has announced a 10% tariff on Australian imports, effective April 5th (US Eastern time). This move will impact professionals who assist in the exportation of Australian goods.

Details of the Announcement

Starting April 5th, a 10% tariff will apply to Australian products, regardless of the existing Australia-US Free Trade Agreement. However, goods that were loaded at their point of origin and in their final transport form before this date will not be affected. Additionally, many countries, including China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Vietnam and South Korea and the EU, will face increased tariffs, which will take effect on April 9th, 2025.

Exemptions to the Tariff

Certain goods are exempt from the tariff, including:

- Steel, aluminium and automotive products
- Specific energy-related goods, pharmaceuticals, timber and paper products, precious metals and semiconductors (a comprehensive list of exempt HS codes spans 37 pages)
- Goods valued under US\$800 per consignment (though this exemption will be removed when duty collection procedures are enforced)

- Products with more than 20% US content, provided other conditions are met

Risk of Circumvention

As tariff rates increase, there may be an incentive for non-compliant exporters to route goods through countries with lower tariffs, falsely claiming them as originating from those countries. Since Australia has the lowest tariff rate at 10%, compared to higher rates in many Oceania and Asian countries, there may be financial motivations to falsely label goods as Australian.

Watch Out for Newly Registered ABNs for “Australian Manufacturers”

Professionals should be vigilant about newly registered Australian Business Numbers (ABNs) used by companies claiming to be Australian manufacturers. Verify proof of Australian origin and ensure all conditions for claiming Australian origin are met.

Customs Valuation Considerations

When tariffs increase, there is often a rise in attempts to lower customs values. US customs brokers are responsible for declaring the value of goods, but they may rely on the information provided by exporters or their clients. To avoid issues, ensure that:

- All payments to suppliers that aren't included in the invoice price are accounted for

- Royalty payments and production assistance are properly included in the customs value
- Proof of payments is provided
- Shipments valued at less than US\$800 are carefully documented
- Customs value is based on the FOB (Free On Board) value, with freight and insurance deducted only if the supplier is responsible for those costs

Increased Due Diligence by US Importers

With additional duties and potential penalties on the line, US importers are likely to increase their due diligence. Expect requests for:

- Proof of Australian origin
- Clarification of HS codes on export declarations or invoices
- Evidence of freight and insurance costs
- Possible changes to shipping terms (be cautious if terms are shifted to DDP, or Delivered Duty Paid)

Best Practices for Export Support Professionals

As the risk of penalties rises, it is important to operate with the mindset that you could be held responsible for incorrect information. You may be liable in situations such as:

- Providing incorrect advice to clients regarding US customs law (refer clients to US-based experts)
- Including false statements in export declarations (which could lead to penalties from the Australian Border Force)
- Assisting in the evasion of US duties (US authorities are increasingly targeting all parties involved, regardless of location)

In the face of evolving circumstances, logistics professionals have a unique opportunity to highlight their value within the supply chain. Staying informed, practicing thorough due diligence and referring clients to specialists when needed are key to mitigating risks and ensuring compliance. By being mindful of potential avoidance strategies, you can support your clients without increasing your own exposure to risks.



ROAD TO 2028: NATROAD'S FREIGHT INDUSTRY PLAN

As road freight volumes are set to rise with growing industry demands, the sector is grappling with a shortage of 26,000 truck drivers, driving up the costs of running a freight business.

To address these challenges, the National Road Transport Association (NatRoad) has introduced a national reform agenda, The Road to 2028, which outlines key recommendations to create a safer and more sustainable road freight industry.

The plan focuses on achieving five primary goals:

- Increased Productivity
- Skilled Workers
- Lower Emissions
- Defined Costs
- Safer Roads

Productivity remains a top priority, with a goal to eliminate 90% of all permits by 2028. While a deal has been made to move forward with this change, discussions with current parliament members are still ongoing.

In response to the critical shortage of skilled drivers, a Road Freight Workforce Action Plan has been developed, which includes the introduction of a national truck driver standard and apprenticeship program.

“Measures such as these will ensure we can recruit, and train, the number of drivers required while maintaining high standards across the board, with the safety part of the picture throughout,” says Warren Clark, CEO of NatRoad.

To address emissions, NatRoad has created a Stronger Economy, Lower Emissions policy paper, which includes a \$3.5 billion Clean Transport Fund aimed at supporting smaller freight businesses.

The agenda also seeks to reduce cost pressures on businesses, including advocating for state and territory tax reform, independent regulation of port charges and a review of heavy vehicle tolls.

Finally, improving road infrastructure is key to enhancing safety. The goal is to raise 80% of national highways to at least a 3-star rating by 2030. Clark added, “while our ‘Skilled Workers’ outcome will address some of the factors, a significant way to improve safety is to improve the quality of the roads, and the infrastructure around them. In fact, when a road is raised by just one star on the AusRAP rating system, deaths reduce by 50 per cent.”

The Road to 2028 agenda offers a comprehensive strategy for Australia’s road freight sector, aiming to boost productivity, develop the workforce, lower emissions, manage costs and improve infrastructure, ensuring a safer and more sustainable future.

Tan, A. (2025). The future of Australian road freight. Retrieved from <https://mhdsupplychain.com.au/2025/03/28/the-future-of-australian-road-freight/> on 2nd April, 2025.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



DAN COSER CUSTOMS COMPILER TOMAX LOGISTICS AUSTRALIA

What is your role at Tomax?

I am a Customs Compiler/Classifier

Name your hobbies/interests?

My hobbies include hiking, running, boxing and going to the gym. I am also a big foodie!

Your proudest achievement?

Moving to Melbourne and obtaining my Australian Citizenship.

Favourite place to visit?

12 Apostles - Great Ocean Road

A quote you live by?

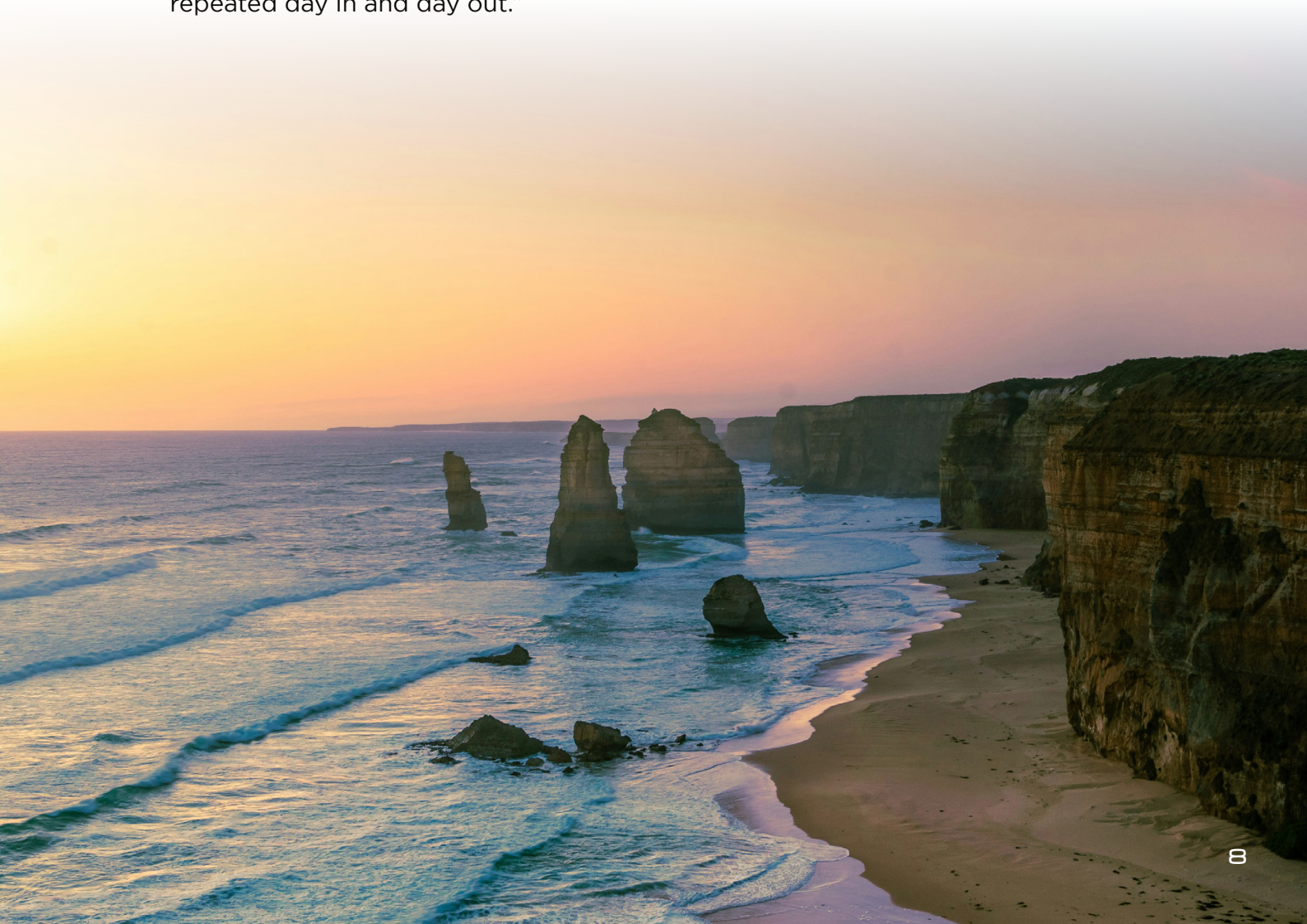
"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out."

If you could time travel, which year would you explore?

2007 - which is the year I moved to Australia.

Besides basic necessities, what is something you cannot live without?

Gym and my close friends.



FRIDAY FUNNIES

We hope the following jokes will put a smile on your face as we approach the weekend!

What do you call an unpredictable camera?
A loose Canon.

I lost my job at the bank on my first day.
A woman asked me to check her balance
so I pushed her over.

Why do bees have sticky hair?
Because they use a honey comb.

What did the drummer call his twin daughters?
Anna One, Anna Two!

My son asked me to put his shoes on,
but I don't think they'll fit me.

Two guys walked into a bar.
The third guy ducked.

My resolution was to read more...
So I put the subtitles on my T.V.

What kind of music do chiropractors like?
Hip pop.

Why did the man fall down the well?
Because he couldn't see that well.

What did one plate say to the other plate?
Dinner's on me.

What's red and smells like blue paint?
Red paint.

