



TOMAX
NEWS

Issue 187
8th Aug 2025



PLUS:

MARKET SUMMARY

- Tariff mayhem continues for many trade partners dealing with cargo shipping into the United States. There are two articles in this newsletter dealing with the issues and what the broader impact is likely to be on the world stage.

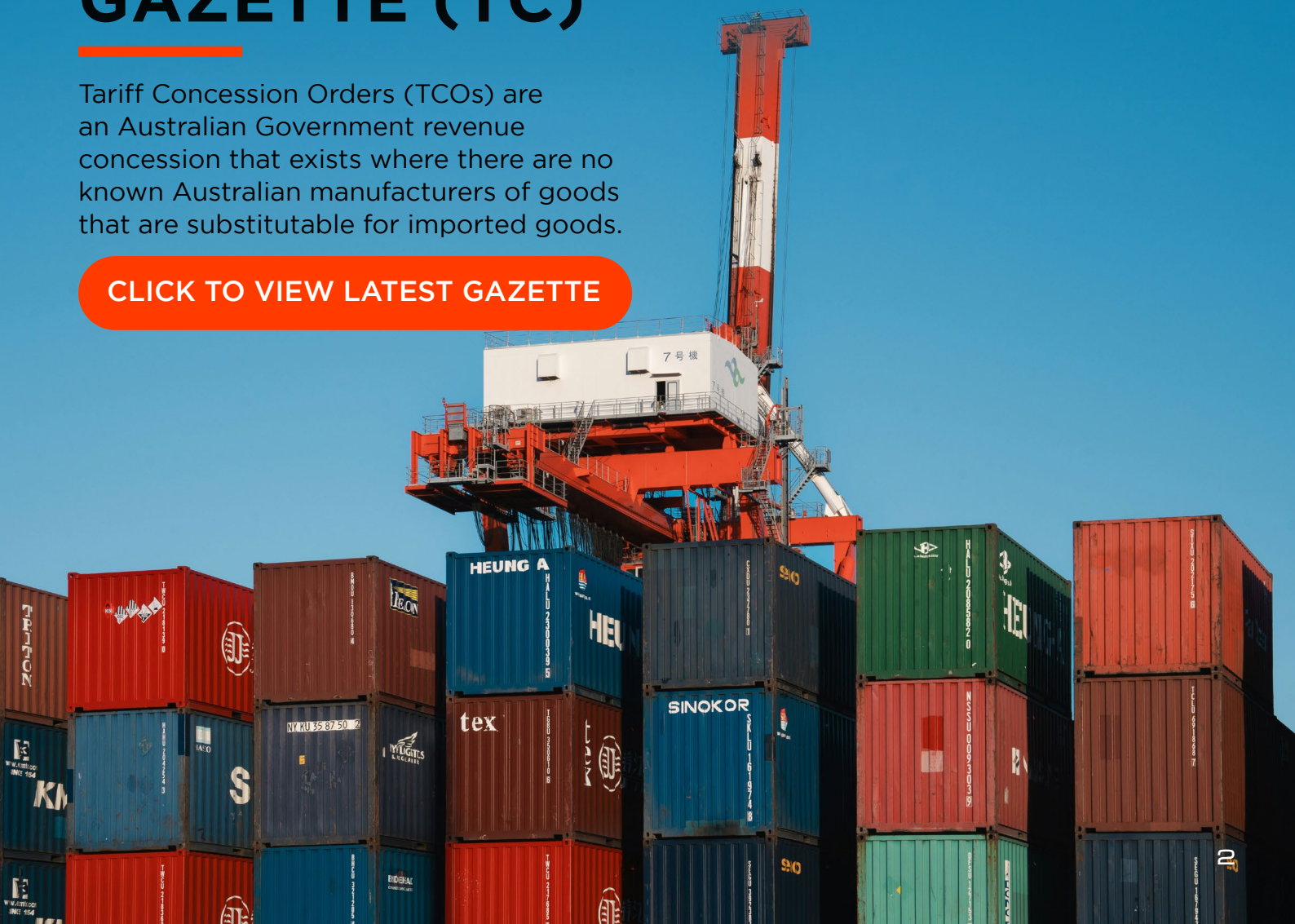
- Severe disruption to shipping line schedules is starting to emerge with vessels now more increasingly skipping ports and changing rotations in order to get back on schedule. These actions cause problems for importers and exporters as they wait for the cargo to be shuttled back and forth between ports in order to reach their destinations. Lines also

continue to operate blank sailings in their schedules in an attempt to continue driving rates higher. There is no doubt that the coming peak season is not going to be an easy one.

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.

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ATA URGES NATIONAL EV ROAD CHARGE

The Australian Trucking Association (ATA) is calling on the Federal Government to implement a national road user charge for electric vehicles (EVs), warning that without a unified approach, Australia risks revenue shortfalls and a patchwork of inconsistent state-based systems.

In its submission to Treasury's Economic Reform Roundtable, ATA Chair Mark Parry stressed the urgency of the issue. "Fuel excise revenue is forecast to decline from 5.2 per cent of government revenue in 2008-09 to just 3.5 per cent by 2028-29," Parry said. "We need a national EV charging system to prevent a patchwork of inconsistent state charges."

Parry pointed to the High Court's recent decision to overturn Victoria's EV road user charge, while noting that New South Wales still expects to collect \$214 million from its own scheme across 2027-28 and 2028-29. He warned this could create compliance headaches for freight operators working across borders.

"The last thing national trucking businesses need is different road user charges with different record keeping requirements across jurisdictions," he said.

The ATA proposes that the Federal Government finalise a national EV charge framework now, but hold off on implementing it until EVs represent at least 30 per cent of new light vehicle sales—with eventual expansion to heavy vehicles.

"Right now, we need more EVs on the road to cut emissions and reduce our reliance on imported fuel. But we also need certainty about how these vehicles will contribute to road funding," Parry said. Despite the push for an EV-specific charge, Parry defended the current fuel tax credit system for diesel trucks.

"The current system ensures fairness and keeps transport costs down. It will remain viable well into the 2030s," he said. The ATA has also contributed to three ongoing Productivity Commission inquiries tied to the broader economic reform agenda.

Hazell, P. (2025). Trucking industry calls for national EV road user charge. Retrieved from <https://mhdsupplychain.com.au/2025/07/29/trucking-industry-calls-for-national-ev-road-user-charge/> on 6th August, 2025.



HONG KONG-MELBOURNE FLIGHTS TO BOOST TRADE AND TOURISM

Victoria's exporters are set to gain improved access to Asian markets as Hong Kong Airlines launches a new direct route to Melbourne starting December 2025.

The service, part of a broader tourism and trade initiative supported by the Victorian State Government and Melbourne Airport, will offer three non-stop flights per week between Hong Kong and Melbourne.

"The additional flights will also increase air freight capacity for Victorian exporters sending their products and produce to Asia," said Minister of Economic Growth and Jobs, Danny Pearson.

This agreement was made possible through the State Government's \$7 million Visit Victoria Industry Partnerships Program (VVIP), a key component of the Economic Growth Statement. The program supports joint investments between government and industry stakeholders to drive economic opportunities.

The Economic Growth Statement outlines more than 40 targeted initiatives designed to

attract investment, reduce regulatory burdens, enhance workforce capabilities and support key industries to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth across Victoria.

Melbourne Airport C.E.O. Lorie Argus welcomed the news, underlining the role of airline competition in benefiting both travellers and exporters. "The growth in our international market shows the importance of competition and choice, which is why we are so excited to welcome Hong Kong Airlines to the mix today," Argus said.

"This new service will not only provide passengers a competitive and high-quality travel option but will also cater to the diverse needs of business and leisure travellers, further deepening the trade, cultural, and tourism ties between Hong Kong and Melbourne," said president of Hong Kong Airlines, Jeff Sun Jianfeng.

Lau, H. (2025). New Hong Kong-Melbourne air link to boost export freight capacity. Retrieved from <https://mhdsupplychain.com.au/2025/07/31/new-introduction-of-hong-kong-airlines-to-melbourne/> on 6th August, 2025.



TRADE SURPLUS REBOUNDS AMID TARIFF UNCERTAINTY

The “unpredictable nature” of U.S import tariff announcements is creating “significant volatility” in global trade flows, according to Westpac senior economist Mantas Vanagas.

Mr Vanagas recently released an update on Australia’s June trade figures, highlighting a rebound in the goods trade surplus driven by a lift in coal exports and a decline in overall imports.

Key figures:

Goods trade balance: \$5.4bn

Exports: +6.0% mth

Imports: -3.1% mth

“Following a more stable period in 2024, when the monthly trade surplus hovered around \$5-6bn, in 2025 Australia’s goods trade experienced marked fluctuations,” Mr Vanagas wrote. He noted that “the latest two months served as a prime example of this trend,” with May’s trade surplus falling to just \$1.6bn (revised down from \$2.2bn) — “marking the lowest level in seven years.”

In contrast, June saw “a sharp recovery” to \$5.4bn, bringing the surplus back in line with the 2024 monthly average. Exports were the main contributor to the turnaround, rising by 6.0% month-on-month — the strongest increase since 2022.

Rural goods exports were reported as steady overall, as a 5.1% rise in meat exports was balanced by a similar decline in other rural categories. “Most of the action was in the three major commodity categories. After a couple of weak months, coal exports surged by over 17% mth,” Mr Vanagas wrote, “iron ore exports also strengthened, but LNG outflows declined”.

He described June’s results as showing “a stable goods trade surplus, punctuated by a few weaker months” ahead of what’s expected to be a more turbulent third quarter due to new U.S tariffs. “The Q3 data is likely to bring further volatility, especially given the recent sharp changes in U.S tariffs taking affect today,” he wrote, “although Australia remains on the lowest 10% tariff, it is unlikely to be immune to the effect of shifting trade patterns globally. But looking beyond that volatility, we anticipate that the goods trade balance trend is more likely to remain downwards, particularly if the AUD continues to strengthen, as we expect.”

Sexton, D. (2025). Solid trade for June, but tariff impacts loom large. Retrieved from <https://www.thedcn.com.au/news/solid-trade-for-june-but-tariff-impacts-loom-large> on 8th August, 2025.



US IMPOSES 50% TARIFF ON INDIAN IMPORTS

The U.S has issued what some are calling a “self-defeating” executive order, slapping an additional 25% tariff on Indian imports—raising the total duty rate to 50%.

Announced today, the new tariff is a response to India’s continued purchase of Russian oil. As a result, Indian goods now join Brazilian exports in facing the highest duty rates currently imposed by the U.S. The increased rate will apply to goods “withdrawn from warehouse for consumption” starting 21 days from now, on 27 August.

“The Russian Federation’s actions in Ukraine pose an ongoing threat to US national security and foreign policy, necessitating stronger measures to address the national emergency,” a White House statement said, “India’s importation of Russian Federation oil undermines US efforts to counter Russia’s harmful activities.”

The White House added that the president is using the tariff to “deter countries from supporting the Russian Federation’s economy” and would consider further action “as needed” depending on which other countries continue importing Russian oil.

According to market data firm Rotate, Indian-origin goods have made up just 3.6% of

all U.S air imports in 2025 so far. However, despite India’s “overall relatively small” share, Rotate noted that “India is an important origin country for the U.S” in specific sectors. For example, India supplies 10% of the healthcare and pharmaceutical goods airfreighted into the U.S and mobile phone shipments from India have “boomed due to a reduction of phones out of China.”

“Given the high value of the goods in those verticals, we can expect shippers in those categories to be looking at their sourcing and supply chain closely for US-bound goods,” Rotate concluded.

John Manners-Bell, CEO of Transport Intelligence, said, “unless the threat of new tariffs is lifted, there will be a huge spike in air cargo demand as shippers try to beat the deadline. Earlier in the year, similar ‘front-loading’ resulted in a big upturn in the number of iPhones shipped by Apple’s suppliers, Foxconn and Tata Electronics from India to the U.S...More broadly, the tariffs will throw many global manufacturers’ ‘China Plus’ strategies into disarray. Given that U.S policy has been to lessen its economy’s dependence on China, the new tariffs would seem self-defeating.”

Goldstone, C. (2025). US hits India with extra 25% tariff – but this may be ‘self-defeating’. Retrieved from <https://theloadstar.com/us-hits-india-with-extra-25-tariff-but-this-may-be-self-defeating/> on 8th August 2025.



NEW US TARIFFS UPDATE

The United States has introduced new import tariffs impacting Australia and other trading nations.

A 10% standard tariff has been applied to most imported goods since 9 April 2025, with many Australian-origin products falling under this measure. While this baseline applies broadly, some goods attract higher rates, and others are exempt. Further changes were confirmed on 31 July 2025, with adjusted tariff rates for selected countries coming into force from 7 August 2025. Additionally, from 29 August 2025, the U.S will eliminate the de minimis threshold for low-value imports. This means all shipments valued at US\$800 or below will also be subject to applicable country-specific tariffs. Exporters are encouraged to remain informed of these developments and obtain professional advice to ensure compliance with the evolving US trade requirements.

Goods Subject to Higher Tariffs

- A 50% tariff applies to Australian steel and aluminium imports into the U.S from 4 June 2025, up from 25% imposed on 12 March 2025.
- This also includes certain downstream products containing steel or aluminium.
- Tariffs are imposed under Section 232 of the U.S Trade Expansion Act of 1962, citing national security concerns.
- Automobiles, light trucks, and selected automotive parts are subject to a 25% tariff, also under Section 232 provisions.
- A 50% tariff on copper and copper-containing products came into effect on 1 August 2025, again under Section 232.

Implications for Australian Exporters to the US

- New U.S tariff measures are expected to impact Australian exporters differently across sectors and businesses.
- Tariffs on other countries may also affect products made overseas but exported by Australian companies.
- Staying informed on U.S trade policy updates is important as the situation develops.
- Austrade's Go Global Toolkit provides resources such as tariff updates and webinars with expert guidance.
- Exporters are encouraged to seek independent advice, including:
 - Consulting licensed customs brokers
 - Contacting U.S Customs and Border Protection for specific questions

- Australia's economy remains resilient, supported by strong free trade agreements.
- The Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA) offers preferential treatment for Australian exports to the US.
- U.S goods continue to enter Australia tariff-free under AUSFTA.

Goods Currently Exempt from Tariffs

- Some items remain excluded from the 10% baseline duty, including:
 - Specific energy products
 - Coins and bullion
 - Other goods granted exemptions as part of ongoing sector investigations

Ongoing U.S Trade Investigations

Under the Trade Expansion Act 1962, the U.S has launched multiple investigations to assess whether certain imported goods pose risks to national security. These include:

- Timber and lumber, and related products
- Semiconductors and related tech (e.g., smartphones, laptops)
- Pharmaceuticals and active ingredients
- Critical minerals and their derivatives
- Medium and heavy-duty trucks, aircraft and parts, and unmanned aerial systems (drones)

In separate announcements, the Administration increased the tariff rate for Canadian imports outside the scope of the U.S Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCS) to 35 per cent, and for Brazilian imports by an additional 40 percent (notwithstanding the entry in the above Annex). Rates for Mexico were paused for a further 90 days and negotiations with China continue.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



CASEY CHADWICK WAREHOUSE HAND/DRIVER TOMAX TRANSPORT ADELAIDE

What is your role at Tomax?

Storeman/Driver

Name your hobbies or interests?

Playing guitar and building/modding gaming PCs.

If you could have one special talent, what would it be?

To be able to play the guitar like Stevie Ray Vaughan.

Your proudest achievement?

Watching my kids grow up - especially being able to see my son play on stage at live gigs!

Favourite place you've been to?

The big day outs in the late 90s.

Most cherished childhood memory?

Getting a Super Nintendo in the late 90s.

A song you wouldn't mind listening to on repeat?

"Strength beyond strength"
- Pantera

Do you think pineapple belongs on pizza?

Yes, why not?! Just not on pavlova!

FRIDAY FUNNIES

Happy Friday! We hope the following jokes make you laugh!

Where do rainbows go when they've been bad?

To prism, so they have time to reflect on what they've done.

What kind of fish do penguins catch at night?

Star fish.

Dad, when he puts the car in reverse:

"Ah, this takes me back."

Why did the coffee taste like dirt?

Because it was ground just a few minutes ago.

Why should you never throw grandpa's false teeth at a vehicle?

You might denture car.

How does Vin Diesel keep in touch with the Fast and Furious crew?

On a Zoom call.

Why don't football players wear glasses?

It's a contact sport.

What does a sports fan have in common with an angry chicken?

A foul mouth.

My wife said I should do lunges to stay in shape.

That would be a big step forward.

What do a tick and the Eiffel Tower have in common?

They're both Paris sites.

What has more letters than the alphabet?

The post office!

Why don't eggs tell jokes?

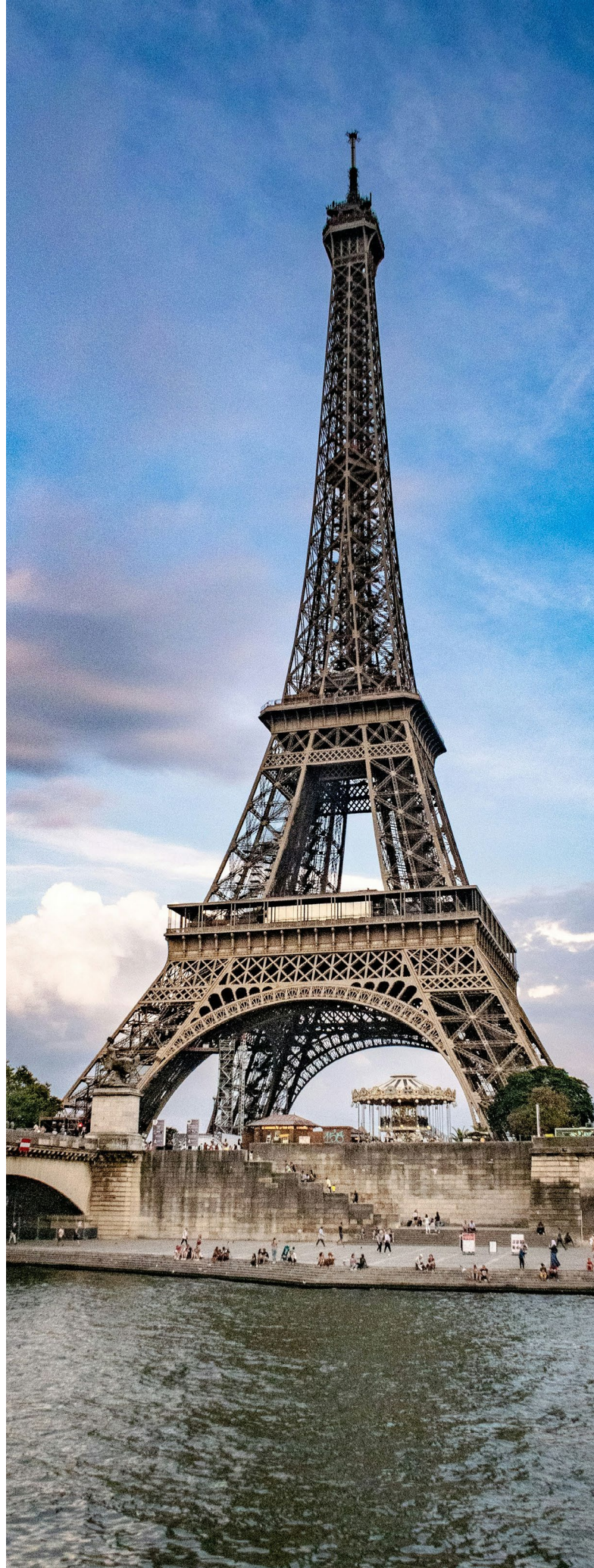
They'd crack each other up.

I have a joke about chemistry,

but I don't think it will get a reaction.

A guy walks into a bar...and he was

disqualified from the limbo contest.



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