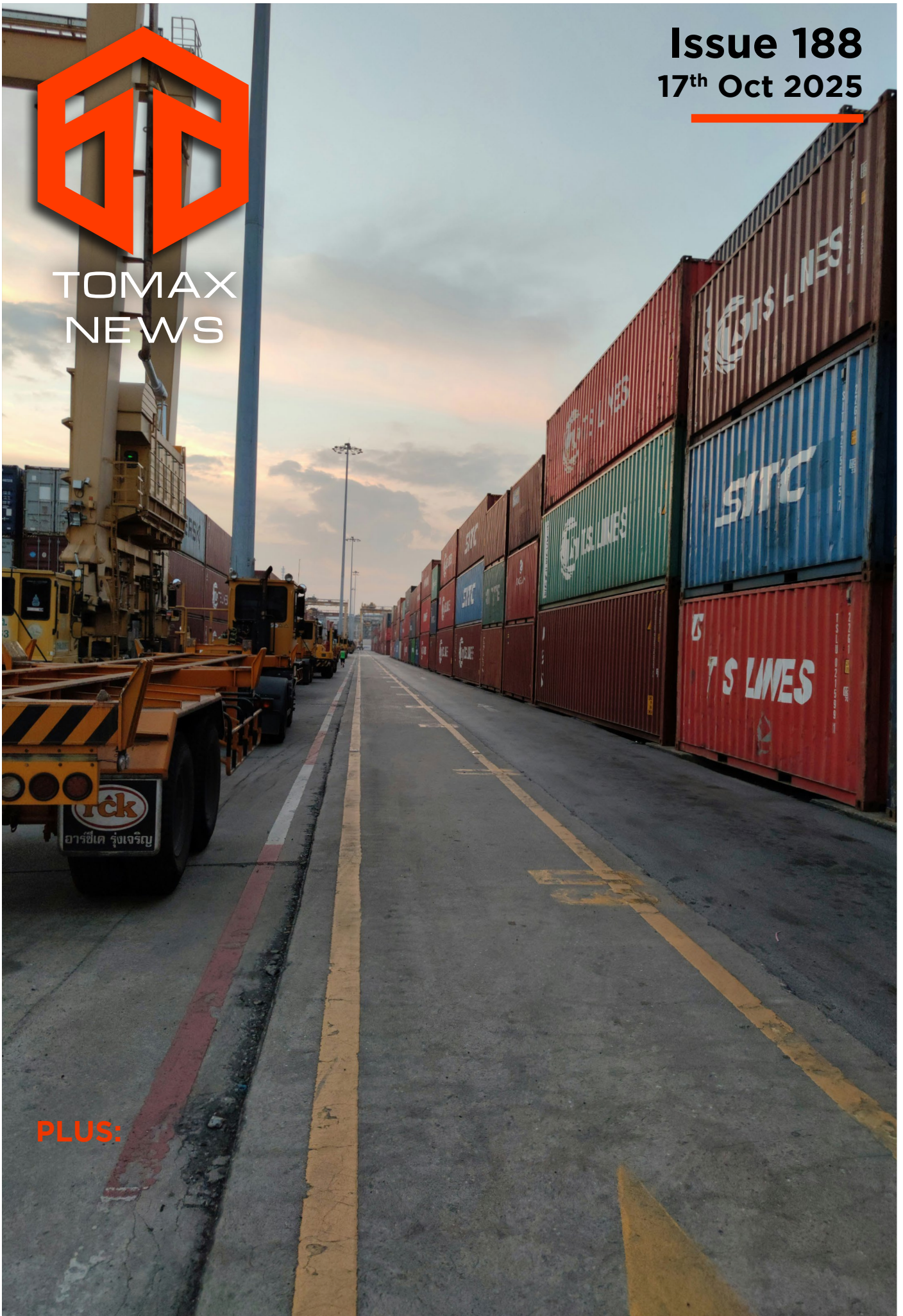




TOMAX
NEWS

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PLUS:

MARKET SUMMARY

- Australia's latest unemployment figures underscore an economy that is yet to regain full momentum. Several retail sectors, including fashion, continue to underperform, while demand within the construction and building industries remains robust. On the international front, ocean freight rates on the China-Australia trade lane declined in the lead-up to China's National Holiday in early October. However, shipping lines have since imposed substantial post-holiday increases, with rates rising by as much as USD 800 per 40-foot container from certain origins.

Despite these hikes, subdued overall demand is expected to place downward pressure on rates again towards the end of October, although carriers are already attempting to introduce additional increases. Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank of Australia is widely expected to lower the official cash rate at its upcoming November meeting, with the broader economic impact yet to be seen.

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.

[CLICK TO VIEW LATEST GAZETTE](#)



LUMPY SKIN DISEASE DETECTED IN SPAIN

Please note the recent detection of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in Spain. As a result of this detection, Spain has been removed from Australia's LSD-free country list, leading to new import restrictions on specified bovine-derived products originating from Spain.

Members involved in importing affected commodities are urged to review their supply chain arrangements and ensure full compliance with the updated import conditions to prevent delays, re-export requirements, or destruction orders.

This notice affects importers of bovine fluids and tissues for laboratory research from Spain, importers of veterinary therapeutics from Spain and importers of bovine reproductive material from Spain.

On 4 October 2025, the Spanish Government confirmed an outbreak of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in a cattle herd located in Catalonia. Consequently, the Department of Agriculture,

Fisheries and Forestry has revoked Spain's recognition as LSD-free (without vaccination) and removed Spain from both the LSD-free country list and the list of approved countries for bovine fluids and tissues, effective 6 August 2025.

Impacted goods include laboratory goods containing bovine fluids or tissues that list Spain as a country of origin, manufacture, or export, laboratory goods that reference the list of approved countries for bovine fluids and tissues, bovine reproductive material sourced from Spain and veterinary therapeutics containing or derived from bovine material from Spain.

The department will soon contact individual import permit holders to provide guidance on ongoing import arrangements.

Goods already en route will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Where biosecurity risks can be effectively managed, the goods may be cleared for release.



\$200M ROAD BLITZ TO KEEP SYDNEY MOVING

The NSW Government has announced a \$200 million boost for a fast-tracked road maintenance blitz across Sydney's busiest transport corridors — a key initiative to safeguard freight efficiency after one of the city's wettest winters in nearly 20 years.

This new investment brings Greater Sydney's total road maintenance funding for 2025–26 to \$488 million, focusing on faster repairs, fewer potholes, and less vehicle damage along freight-critical routes. Repair work will be prioritised according to traffic volumes, freight significance, and road wear severity, ensuring smoother travel for the trucks and commercial operators that power Sydney's supply chain.

Premier Chris Minns says the program will strengthen both safety and reliability while supporting the teams who keep the city moving. "We're investing in both the future of our road network and the quality of the drive today," he says, "whether you're commuting to work or running a small business, safe and reliable roads matter."

Minister for Roads Jenny Aitchison adds that the program reinforces the Government's commitment to "Building a Better NSW," highlighting the importance of maintaining existing infrastructure alongside new developments.

"This work might not get ribbon cuttings, but we take enormous pride in delivering safe, reliable travel for everyone who uses our road network," she says. "This blitz for Sydney's key corridors is an investment in reliable, resilient infrastructure that keeps the city moving."

In August and September alone, over 5,100 potholes were repaired, with last year's maintenance program resurfacing nearly one million square metres of road — the equivalent of 125 football fields. Regional NSW has also received a significant boost, with an additional \$155 million in accelerated funding, bringing total non-metropolitan maintenance investment to \$1.25 billion this financial year.

As Sydney's freight and logistics activity continues to grow, this targeted maintenance blitz aims to keep the city's road network resilient, reliable, and ready to support NSW's economic backbone.

Hazell, P. (2025). \$200m road maintenance blitz to keep Sydney's freight moving. Retrieved from <https://mhdsupplychain.com.au/2025/10/16/200m-road-maintenance-blitz-to-keep-sydneys-freight-moving/on> 16th October, 2025.



MELBOURNE TO HOST FIRST ELECTRIC TRUCK HUB

Melbourne's freight industry is gearing up for a major milestone with the launch of Australia's first dedicated electric truck charging hub, backed by \$12.3 million in funding from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA).

The hub will be developed, built, and operated by Mondo Power in Laverton North — one of the city's busiest freight corridors — and will serve as a real-world demonstration of the technical and commercial feasibility of electrifying heavy vehicle fleets.

Equipped with 14 dual-plug chargers purpose-built for heavy battery electric trucks (BEVs), the facility will also support 20 heavy BEVs through funding to help offset ownership costs. This will allow participating transport operators to trial zero-emission vehicles and transition away from diesel-powered fleets.

ARENA CEO Darren Miller says the initiative showcases how clean energy innovation can reshape one of Australia's highest-emitting industries.

"Through Mondo's project, we'll show the heavy transport sector how electrification can be integrated into existing business models and drive down the high emissions from moving goods on our roads," Darren says.

"By backing first-of-its-kind innovation like this, we can accelerate adoption of clean technologies and bring us closer to our net zero goals."

Mondo will collaborate with leading truck manufacturers to supply heavy BEVs, provide technical support and long-haul demonstrations, and offer charging hub memberships that include set pricing, driver amenities, and secure vehicle parking.

AusNet Chief Development Officer Jon D'Sylva says the project marks an important step toward a cleaner freight future. "Delivering Australia's clean energy transition isn't just about renewable generation — we must also tackle sectors like transport," Jon says. "This facility will enable cleaner, more efficient freight operations and reduce pollution in Melbourne's west."

The project is part of ARENA's Driving the Nation Program, a key component of Australia's broader strategy to decarbonise long-haul transport and support the transition to cleaner, more sustainable freight operations.

Hazell, P. (2025). Australia's first EV truck charging hub to power Melbourne's freight network. Retrieved from <https://mhdsupplychain.com.au/2025/10/01/australias-first-ev-truck-charging-hub-to-power-melbournes-freight-network/> on 16th October, 2025.



\$1.1B BOOST TO BUILD AUSTRALIA'S LOW-CARBON FUEL FUTURE

The Australian Government has announced a \$1.1 billion investment to establish a domestic low-carbon liquid fuels industry, helping freight and logistics operators reduce emissions while maintaining the nation's fuel security.

Currently, liquid fuels account for around half of Australia's total energy consumption, with freight transport—trucks, ships, and planes—among the most fuel-intensive sectors. The new ten-year Cleaner Fuels Program will support onshore production of renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), both of which can be used in existing engines without modification. The first commercial-scale production is expected by 2029.

Treasurer Jim Chalmers says the initiative is about “making Australians and our economy big beneficiaries of the global net zero transformation,” noting that it will unlock new opportunities “from the farm to the refinery.”

For the freight and logistics sector, the program provides a practical pathway to decarbonise heavy transport and cargo operations that are challenging to electrify. Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen highlighted that there are already “2 billion litres worth of projects in the pipeline, many of which are ready to scale up production.”

Acting Infrastructure Minister Murray Watt underscored the importance of low-carbon fuels in balancing freight growth with climate goals. “Low carbon fuels have the potential to be a \$36 billion industry here in Australia,” he says.

The Victorian Transport Association (VTA) welcomed the announcement, calling it a crucial step toward a cleaner, more resilient freight future. VTA CEO Peter Anderson said, “Low carbon liquid fuels are essential for heavy vehicles and machinery that cannot yet be easily electrified. Supporting local production of these fuels will help reduce emissions while maintaining the reliability and resilience of our supply chains.”

Feedstocks such as canola, sorghum, sugar, and agricultural waste will underpin the new industry, supporting farmers and regional economies while enabling freight operators to transition to cleaner energy sources. According to a Clean Energy Finance Corporation report, a fully developed low-carbon fuels industry could avoid up to 230 million tonnes of emissions by 2050 — more than twice Australia's current annual transport emissions.

Hazell, P. (2025). \$1.1bn cleaner fuels program targets freight, aviation and heavy transport. Retrieved from <https://mhdsupplychain.com.au/2025/09/18/1-1bn-cleaner-fuels-program-targets-freight-aviation-and-heavy-transport/> on 17th October, 2025.



\$128M PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN VICTORIA'S FREIGHT NETWORK

Freight and farming operators across Victoria will benefit from a \$128 million bridge strengthening program designed to increase road capacity and enhance supply chain efficiency across the state.

The initiative is jointly funded by the Albanese and Allan Labor Governments, with the Federal Government contributing \$56.6 million.

The upgrades will enable heavier, high-productivity freight vehicles to move more efficiently along key transport routes — supporting Victoria's \$36 billion freight and logistics sector, which employs over 260,000 people. These improvements will also future-proof the network as part of Victoria's High-Productivity Freight Vehicle Network.

Several vital freight links are set for enhancement. In Geelong, four bridges on Corio Quay Road will be upgraded to better handle the region's busy grain export traffic via GeelongPort. Along the Great Ocean Road, bridges at Skenes Creek and Wye River, along with two on Lavers Hill-Cobden Road, will strengthen access for the dairy industry. On the Princes Highway (west), bridge works are planned at Allansford, Dennington, Weerite, Narrawong, Yambuk, and Dartmoor to support timber and renewable energy transport.

Further progress is being made in Gippsland, where the Bunyip River Princes Highway Bridge at Longwarry North has been reinforced, and work on the Nerrena Road Tarwin River Bridge is nearing completion. Along the Hume Freeway — Victoria's busiest interstate freight corridor — bridge upgrades at Wodonga Creek and Pranjip Creek Longwood are also close to completion.

Acting Federal Infrastructure Minister Julie Collins said the investment will ensure goods “get to market quickly, safely and efficiently,” bolstering local jobs and strengthening supply chains. Victorian Ports and Freight Minister Melissa Horne added that fixing network bottlenecks will provide operators with “the reliable connections they need to stay competitive.”

This program highlights the joint commitment of federal and state governments to modernising critical freight infrastructure and keeping Victoria's supply chain moving.

Hazell, P. (2025). \$128m to strengthen bridges for freight in Victoria. Retrieved from <https://mhdsupplychain.com.au/2025/09/25/128m-to-strengthen-bridges-for-freight-in-victoria/> on 17th October, 2025.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



ASH HAMGINI REGIONAL COURIER DRIVER TOMAX TRANSPORT SYDNEY

What is your role at Tomax?

I am a Driver.

Name your hobbies/interests?

DJing, watching movies and playing soccer.

Proudest achievement?

Djing at some of the best night clubs in Sydney and Melbourne like Plaza Hotel and Seadeck.

Favourite genre of music?

Electronic music, tech house and melodic house.

Dream destination?

Ibiza and Las Vegas

If you could transform into an animal, what would you be?

Eagle

Your greatest inspiration?

Music

The last TV show you watched?

Black Mirror (series).



FRIDAY FUNNIES

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

I'm addicted to brake fluid,
but it's okay because I can stop at any time.

Did you know deer can jump higher than the average house?
It's because of their strong hind legs and the fact that the average house can't jump.

What do you say to a Llama that loves picnicking?
Alpaca lunch.

I can't stand Russian dolls.
They're so full of themselves.

Did you hear about the glass blower who accidentally inhaled?
He got stomach pane.

If you see an Apple Store get robbed,
does that make you an iWitness?

Why did the hipster burn his mouth on pizza?
Because he ate it before it was cool.

I'm glad I know sign language,
it's pretty handy.

Why does Wally (from Where's Wally) always wear a striped shirt?
He doesn't want to be spotted.

Be kind to dentists.
They have fillings too, you know.

I did a theatrical performance about puns.
It was really just a play on words.

I got a job at a bakery,
because I knead dough.

What do you call a broken can opener?
A can't opener.

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, **but I'd never met herbivore.**

I changed my phone's name to Titanic.
It's syncing now.

