



TOMAX
NEWS

Issue 73
25th March 2022



PLUS:

MARKET SUMMARY

- Full container transport delays in Perth remain at around 10-14 days due to the huge surge in container arrivals by rail, coastal vessels, and international container ships. All transport companies in Perth are heavily backlogged and massive impact on importers is the detention exposure. Tomax is working with various carriers to mitigate the delays and costs but it is expected that the situation will be problematic for some weeks to come.
- FAK depots in Melbourne and Sydney have this week released notices regarding the lengthy delays in making LCL cargo available. Usually containers are unpacked within 2-3 days of wharf availability, but at the moment delays are out to around 10-12 days at least.
- Transport options to Adelaide remain in significant short supply due to huge demands currently, which is also impacting the Melbourne to Sydney route with post-flood recovery volumes still moving in high numbers. Bookings of at least a week in advance are advised in order to secure capacity.

TARIFF CONCESSIONS GAZETTE

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.

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LATEST NEWS

STRIKE FORCE LAUNCHED AGAINST UNAUTHORISED PROTESTERS DISRUPTING PORTS



Following 5 separate demonstrations from unauthorised protests, blocking access to Port Botany this week, NSW Police have stepped in and launched a strike force against them. Today, a protestor representing climate activism group Blockade Australia attempted to disrupt port operations, for the fourth consecutive day.

NSW Police issued a statement to advise that emergency services were called to a freight rail line over a canal near Qantas Drive in Tempe at 7am this morning, after a group gathered at the location, including a woman who suspended herself from a pole. The statement read, “a woman was arrested about 9.45am by officers attached to South Sydney Police Area Command, assisted by Police Rescue, and taken to Mascot Police Station where charges are anticipated.”

Blockade Australia said the 25-year-old woman, named Emma, had positioned herself above the rail line believing that the goods transported via roads, ports, and rails are used to prioritise “the economic wealth and political power of an elite few.”

The sudden onslaught of demonstrations has been met with the launch of an NSW Police strike force to prevent, investigate, and disrupt unauthorised protests across the state.

Since Tuesday this week, one protester has prevented incoming trucks from entering the port; one has blocked access to the Hutchinson Ports container terminal; two have

parked trucks across the road connecting to Patrick Terminals; and another has suspended himself above the container rail line.

Paul Toole, acting NSW premier and minister for police, believes the attempts to disrupt commercial activity in the Port Botany area have caused significant economic damage saying, “NSW Police has launched Strike Force Guard to proactively investigate and target those involved in the planning and facilitation of this type of protest activity, in addition to current operations. I have been clear from the start; we will not stand for this kind of blatant disregard for the law and its impact on the livelihoods of all workers and business owners impacted by these foolish acts. Strike Force Guard will ensure Police are always one step ahead of the protesters to make sure we crack down on this economic vandalism.”

Police said they would continue to work with NSW Ports, Port Authority of NSW and other port stakeholders to prevent disruptions to the port community, but with the establishment of the strike force, the law enforcement network has expanded. Strike Force Guard will include officers and detectives from the central metropolitan region, analysts from the State Intelligence Command, and operatives from the Operations Support Group and the Public Order and Riot Squad. Furthermore, it will also include specialist officers from Traffic and Highway Patrol Command, PolAir, Marine Area Command and Police Rescue. In addition to monitoring and responding to unauthorised

protest activity, the task force officers will conduct intelligence-driven tasks including patrols around significant infrastructure areas across Sydney.

Assistant commissioner Peter Cotter, central metropolitan region commander, said police will continue to use the full force of the law to target those involved in criminal activity. He said, “these protests are intended to create significant disruptions to trade and commerce, which has so far been minimised by the swift response of police. These people are putting themselves – and those tasked to rescue them – in dangerous situations and it will not be tolerated. Further, police will take action against anyone engaged in activity that impacts on or hinders the ability for the community to go about their lives.”

Neil Chambers, director of the Container Transport Alliance Australia, fully supports the establishment of the strike force, as well as the tougher penalties being considered by the NSW government for those who shut down traffic. Neil said, “it’s clear that this group, and potentially more activist groups, plan to escalate these protest actions over the coming months, so it is good that the NSW government and NSW Police are being proactive in mitigating and thwarting their actions. Truck drivers, and other freight & port

workers, as well as freight companies, just want to go about their daily business safely and without mindless interruption which costs multiple thousands of dollars for every hour of delay.”

Mr Chambers said Port Botany is a critical asset keeping the NSW and Australian economies functioning, which are vital in equipping Australia to achieve climate goals. He continued, “addressing climate change, either through government policy and regulation, or increasingly as we are seeing through businesses making their own decisions to address environmental outcomes, requires money and investment. So, the protestors’ aim to disrupt commerce and impact negatively on business productivity and profits, actually works against the economy seeking to address issues impacting on climate change. If we have a strong economy there will be more incentive to spend the necessary money and effort to address climate change. The protestors are naïve in the extreme.”

William, A. (2022). STRIKE FORCE LAUNCHED AGAINST PROTESTERS AS ANOTHER BLOCKS BOTANY. Retrieved from <https://www.thedcn.com.au/news/containers-and-container-shipment/strike-force-launched-against-protesters-as-another-blocks-botany/> on 25th March, 2022.



VICTORIAN FUNDING OPENS UP FREIGHT INDUSTRY

Funding from the Victorian government will enable easier access for people to enter the freight and logistics sector. The new Victorian government employment project will provide a direct pathway to critical roles in the freight and logistics, encouraging more women to join the industry.

Over the next 2 years, Freight Victoria will be fast tracking 125 jobs in the sector in partnership with the Victorian Transport Association (VTA) to fill workforce shortages with freight companies. Given the freight industry contributes \$21 billion to the state's economy each year, the announcement comes to no surprise.

The new Freight Industry Training for Jobseekers Project will provide training for candidates to secure long-term job opportunities to ensure essential supplies get to where they need to be. A specific focus of the program is on women, who at present make up a mere 16% of employees in the sector. Through Jobs Victoria, the \$3 million employment project will deliver freight industry-specific training programs in critical areas including forklift driving, heavy vehicle

driving and warehousing. After successful completion of at least 2 of the programs, job seekers will be equipped with the skills to take on a career in the transport and logistics sector. Furthermore, the VTA is pledging to provide ongoing support to both employees and transport companies to solidify their long-term success.

Emphasis on recruiting those whose employment was drastically affected by the pandemic, women (specifically those over the age of 45), people under 25 years old, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people and people from non-English speaking backgrounds, will be made. Victoria's freight industry employs over 260,000 people and houses the country's biggest and busiest port at the Port of Melbourne to assist with keeping goods on the move and connect farmers and local producers with the rest of Australia.

Fully Loaded. (2022). Victorian investment to open up freight industry. Retrieved from <https://www.fullyloaded.com.au/industry-news/2203/victorian-investment-to-open-up-freight-industry> on 21st March, 2022.



HIGHER FREIGHT TRANSPORT PRICES FROM RISING FUEL COSTS

Rising diesel prices in Australia are contributing to higher freight transport prices and inflationary pressures, due to the war in Ukraine and the attendant sanctions on Russian energy exports being key drivers of the price hikes.

According to the Australian Institute of Petroleum, in one month between 13 February to 13 March, the average terminal gate price (TGP, wholesale pricing) of diesel rose across Australia from 166.4 cents per litre (cpl) to 195.1 cpl – an increase of 28.7 cpl, or 17.3%.

More recently, the TGP saw a fair amount of volatility. On 22 March, the TGP average across Australia for diesel was 190.1 cent per litre, which was down from 208.7 on Wednesday 16 March. The highest retail diesel prices recorded up to the week ending 13 March on average across Australia was 218.1 cpl.

The Transport Workers Union (TWU) has called for the Federal Government to subsidise petrol for impacted workers such as truck, rideshare and delivery drivers. Michael Kaine, TWU National Secretary, said “transport workers on the thinnest margins are bearing the brunt of skyrocketing fuel costs because [Scott] Morrison has refused to put in place regulation to support basic cost recovery”. The Without Trucks Australia Stops Senate Report recommended the Federal Government establish an independent body to set binding standards in trucking, such as cost recovery, in August 2021. However, the Federal Government is yet to enact any of the recommendations as of March 2022.

Brissenden, N. & Prema, S. (2022). How rising fuel prices are impacting everyday Australians. Retrieved from <https://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/7660484/how-rising-fuel-prices-are-impacting-everyday-australians/> on 25th March, 2022.



ROBOTS TAKE ON PORT CONTAINER INSPECTIONS

Australia's biosecurity team welcomed a four legged robot, named Spot, who began trial on the frontline.

David Littleproud, Minister for agriculture and northern Australia, said Spot has been trialled to undertake a container inspection at the Port of Darwin and at Jabiru for mine rehabilitation and research activities. He said, "move over Muster Dogs, this robotic canine can carry up to 14 kilograms of inspection gear and has 360 degree perception capability and sensors to collect biosecurity data. I believe it can also muster sheep and climb stairs.

In Darwin, biosecurity officers utilised Spot in a trial inspection of a cargo container in hopes to detect planted biosecurity risk materials, testing "Spot's infrared night vision and ability to inspect the container's underside. At the Ranger Mine, Spot surveyed flora at a revegetation site, including identifying weeds and looking for signs of returning wildlife. Spot was also fitted with a gamma sensor and conducted radionuclide counts over a mine rehabilitation site."

Mr. Littleproud asserts robots have the capability to minimise safety risks for staff and

boost the tools to keep Australia safe from biosecurity threats. The robot is able to travel at speeds of up to 1.6 metres per second or 6 kilometres per hour.

The robot can travel at speeds of up to 1.6 metres per second, or six kilometres per hour. Costing \$34,000, the pilot was funded by the Innovation Pilots Team and is part of the government's commitment to explore robotic aptitude and new technologies to bolster Australia's biosecurity risk detection capabilities.



Ackerman, I. (2022). Quadrupedal robot inspects container at port. Retrieved from <https://www.thedcn.com.au/news/containers-and-container-shipping/quadrupedal-robot-inspects-containers-at-port/> on 23rd March, 2022.



AAA CAMPAIGNS TO PUT TRANSPORT AT CENTER OF NATIONAL RECOVERY

The Australian Automobile Association (AAA) is launching a campaign to enable the voices of 8.7 million voters to request for transport spending at the center of Australia's COVID recovery and the 2022 federal election.

This year, Australian motorists will pay \$13 billion in fuel excise, triggering Australia's motoring clubs to encourage their members to contact those seeking to represent them in parliament prior to May's federal election. The association is demanding for Parliament to spend 100% of fuel excise revenue on national transport projects. AAA's Green Light Australia's Recovery campaign will call for the reinvestment of motoring taxes in transport projects that stimulate the country's economy, save lives and make the transport network a priority.

According to the World Economic Forum, the analysis of global transport infrastructure indicated Australia's global ranking dropped 20 spots, from 18th to 38th position, in the four years to 2019. The nation now sits behind India, Dominican Republic and Azerbaijan. Infrastructure Australia highlighted that both the cost of maintaining Australian roads and overall maintenance backlog is skyrocketing.

Michael Bradley, AAA managing director says, "with petrol prices at record levels, Australian motorists deserve to have every cent of their fuel taxes spent on projects that make their commutes faster, their families safer and their communities stronger. The past decade has seen just 53 per cent of the fuel excise spent on the transport network and, as a result, Australia is now having to play catch up."

The AAA noted that Australia's politicians have been right to resist calls for fuel tax cuts, as the importance of fuel excise as the nation's main source of road-building revenue shouldn't be forgotten, however the time has come for both sides of politics to commit to using 100% of fuel taxes to build transport projects. The AAA's 2022 Policy Platform says priority projects have the ability to create more than half a million jobs, generating more than \$300 billion in economic activity, which suggests would add more than \$130 billion to the nation's GDP.

Overall, it calls for significant investment in transport infrastructure in conjunction with policies including:

- establishing a road safety leadership role for the Commonwealth that leverages its transport funding to incentivise improved road safety outcomes
- implement a real-world vehicle emissions test program to improve customer information regarding fuel consumptions and emissions performance; saving motorists and businesses money while helping the environment
- supporting technology transition via an integrated plan to address the issues of greenhouse gas emissions, Australia's fuel quality and electric vehicle infrastructure

Fully Loaded. (2022). AAA CAMPAIGNS TO PUT TRANSPORT AT CENTRE OF NATIONAL RECOVERY. Retrieved from <https://www.fullyloaded.com.au/industry-news/2203/aaa-campaigns-to-put-transport-at-centre-of-national-recovery> on 24th March, 2022.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

MEET LEIGH KERR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & WHOLESALE MANAGER TOMAX LOGISTICS AUSTRALIA

What do you do at Tomax?

Business development manager – I oversee the export department, the warehouse and our FAK program. I also assist in improving and implementing business strategies on various parts of the business.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Getting away with family and friends.

Most interesting place you've been to?

I'm very fortunate to have visited many different countries, but my most interesting place/experience was being on a Russian cruise ship as a child and at the night time disco having a thousand crazy drunk Russian's singing along to Boney M - Rasputin - which had just been released (yes showing my age).

What puts a smile on your face?

My three kids, our new puppy Mollie and sometimes my husband.

Favourite childhood memory?

Living and going to school in Japan.

If you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Sushi and beer!

The next goal you would like to achieve?

I used to make big goals, but now I just have small ones, to keep my family safe, happy and healthy.



Leigh & Ellie



Sophie, Ellie and Ben



Puppy Mollie



Sushi and Beer



SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

Can you spot the 5 differences between each photo?



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