victoriantransportassociation inc.

MEDIA STATEMENT
11 March, 2016

VTA welcomes Port of Melbourne bill passage

The Victorian Government and Opposition are to be commended for agreeing on amendments to the *Delivering Victorian Infrastructure (Port of Melbourne Lease Transaction) Bill 2015,* which cleared the way for the Bill's passage through Parliament yesterday afternoon.

This concludes months of negotiations, and will maximise Port of Melbourne lease proceeds and subsequent funding for removal of level crossings and other vital roads and transportation infrastructure, particularly in regional Victoria.

The VTA from day one has supported leasing the Port of Melbourne and we are pleased that the lease can be enacted via legislation instead of the Treasurer using his administrative powers.

We spent considerable time and effort making submissions, appearing before an Upper House committee, and lobbying for amendments to the initial legislation to better protect Port users from excessive price hikes.

We acknowledge and thank Treasurer Tim Pallas, Roads and Ports Minister Luke Donnellan, Shadow Ports Minister David Hodgett and others within the government for listening to our concerns.

A legislated outcome means more money for regional road and transport infrastructure through the $200 million *Agriculture Infrastructure and Jobs Fund*, which can be established as soon as the Port is leased. That Fund will enable investment in vital infrastructure to help farmers and other primary producers get their goods to market faster and more efficiently, which is an important driver of economic growth in Victoria.

With the legislation now passed, we urge the Government to initiate its plans to lease the Port so that a transaction can be concluded as soon as possible.

Peter Anderson
CEO, VTA

Ends…

For further information please contact Brian O'Neil on 0411 055 284.

Victorian Transport Association
PO Box 5, South Melbourne, 3205