



MEDIA RELEASE

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MUA resist change and hold the consumer to ransom

The Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) is now into its fourth day of picketing the gates to the newest Container port in Australia located at Webb Dock.

The MUA have ensured that the port operations are also ceased and that any heavy vehicles attempting to enter are intimidated to turn back.

The MUA is demanding that Victoria International Container Terminal (VICT) reinstate a casual worker who is ineligible for the necessary waterfront security clearance. VICT are not willing to break the law by caving into the MUA's demands.

The effect of this disruption to the thousands of containers being loaded and unloaded from the Glasgow Express, which has been held at Webb Dock for four days, means that millions of dollars' worth of import and export goods will not reach their markets in time.

This will mean huge costs being absorbed by thousands of businesses. The flow on effect will eventually be to all consumers and customers.

Victorian Transport Association (VTA) CEO, Mr Peter Anderson, called for an end to the action.

"This type of disruption, at this time of year, takes the industrial relations environment back 25 years. The adverse effect will be felt by people and families that have nothing to do with the MUA political agenda," Mr Anderson said.

"The VTA condemns this action and urges the MUA to release the workers back to their jobs and use the arbitration system to sort out the employment issue.

"The world is changing around us, but unfortunately the MUA want to maintain the old attitudes and methods. Brutal and Neanderthal in their actions and selfish in their intent.

"Let's hope that the courts will sort this out soon - for the sake of all Victorians."

ENDS

About Victoria International Container Terminal Limited (VICT)

VICT was appointed in 2014 to build and operate the new automated container terminal located at the Port of Melbourne's Webb Dock East. Currently, VICT lays claim to being the world's most automated container terminal and will be able to service the larger vessels which shipping lines want to bring to Australia. VICT's facility delivers a leading global standard in modern container terminal design, innovation and operations, and is the flagship facility in Australia's premier port. VICT utilises the best-proven technologies and innovations to deliver automated operations from the gate to the quayside. VICT is owned by International Container Terminal Services, Incorporated (ICTSI), a global container terminal operator headquartered in Manila, Philippines with a portfolio of 30 terminals throughout 21 countries. ICTSI has a pledged commitment to supporting the welfare and education of young people in the communities where it operates