



MEDIA RELEASE

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VTA urges operators to pass on latest Patrick infrastructure surcharge hike

The Victorian Transport Association has written to members to urge them to pass on infrastructure surcharge increases announced last week by stevedore Patrick, saying ultimately consumers must bear the brunt of supply chain cost increases.

Patrick advised road and rail freight operators last Thursday of plans to increase infrastructure surcharges at its terminals from 12 March.

The new rates are as follow:

- Melbourne: \$47.50 per box
- Sydney: \$41.10 per box
- Brisbane: \$38.25 per box
- Fremantle: \$7.50 per box

“Operators continue to face unprecedented increases to infrastructure and road user charges in and around the Port of Melbourne,” said VTA CEO Peter Anderson.

“It is vital these and other cost-of-business increases are absorbed through the supply chain for freight businesses to remain sustainable and viable in a competitive trading environment,” he said.

The increases will apply to both road and rail transport operators for full import and export container movements at the terminals.

Road operators will continue to be invoiced electronically via 1-Stop.

“The VTA has long argued that consumers need to understand that price increases brought about by higher business and transactional costs will ultimately have to be passed on to them because businesses already operating to tight margins will go out of business if they try and absorb the costs,” Mr Anderson said.

“Consumers are the ultimate benefactors from receiving goods delivered by the transport industry, and therefore they need to be subjected to the same price increases operators and other participants in the supply chain are required to take on.”

Operators are urged to contact the VTA for further information on the latest increase and its impacts through the supply chain.

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