



MEDIA RELEASE

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VTA welcomes legislation to enable Port of Melbourne lease

The Victorian Transport Association welcomed today's announcement that the Victorian Government had introduced legislation to the Victorian Parliament to enable the lease of the Port of Melbourne.

"So much of the infrastructure spending in the Victorian Budget is tied to port sale proceeds so we are encouraged the Government has reconfirmed up-front lease proceeds will go into the Victorian Transport Fund," said VTA CEO Peter Anderson.

"It is vital that as a state we continue to grow this fund so that important infrastructure projects and spending is unimpeded, and that Victoria can remain competitive with other states as a hub for freight and logistics."

Mr Anderson also welcomed the Government's decision to cap rate increases on prescribed port related costs, as originally advocated by the VTA.

"Capping rate increases on prescribed port related costs to CPI for the first 15 years of the lease is good news for freight operators because it will provide them the certainty they need to confidently invest in port assets, knowing port costs will not exceed inflation."

Mr Anderson said the VTA would continue to seek clarity from the Government and roads authorities about High Productivity Freight Vehicle access into the new Webb Dock facility under construction.

"It is vital that road infrastructure into the ports area can accommodate High Productivity Freight Vehicles into the future, in terms of its design and ability to safely handle future freight tasks.

"We will continue to advocate for this important need to be met, especially with respect to the West Gate Distributor and Transurban's proposed Western Distributor project, should it proceed."

Mr Anderson said while the lease is vital for infrastructure spending, the port's competitiveness in a national context hinges on a fair sale outcome that does not discourage competitiveness.

"So while we welcome the legislation's introduction, it is important that all parties proceed carefully and methodically, so that proceeds are maximised in a way that enables port operators to remain competitive. This includes addressing proposed excessive rent increases, which would have a knock-on effect across the supply chain, including higher prices on consumer goods."

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