



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Horne to formally open State Conference 2023**

Victorian Minister for Roads & Road Safety and Ports & Freight Melissa Horne will officially open **VTA State Conference 2023** on Monday March 20 at Phillip Island on Victoria's southeast coast.

"Minister Horne has been a fervent supporter of the VTA and the freight and logistics sector since she was first elected to parliament at the 2018 Victorian election and immediately appointed to Cabinet and allocated the Ports & Freight portfolio," said VTA CEO Peter Anderson in a notice to industry stakeholders announcing her attendance.

"Over her first term as minister she worked hard to understand the challenges facing our sector, taking every opportunity to meet with the VTA and our membership."

Anderson said Horne's re-election to the seat of Williamstown last November saw her allocated the Roads & Road Safety portfolios, in addition to Ports & Freight, making her office something of a one-stop-shop for the freight industry.

"This means there are tremendous opportunities to align and get real reform on the issues that matter most to operators, particularly from an infrastructure, safety, licencing, and regulatory perspective. We look forward to hearing from Minister Horne about the transport priorities of the returned Andrews Labor Government at the conference," Anderson said.

State Conference 2023 is being held from **Sunday 19 – Tuesday 21 March** at Silverwater Resort, Phillip Island under the theme of ***People First – Managing Transport's Greatest Asset.***

"With recent years punctuated by labour, skills, and training shortages due to the pandemic and the aging worker profile challenges our industry has experienced for many years, the theme is intended to draw a focus on practical solutions to how we can improve the skills of our people and attract new and younger people to the transport industry," Anderson said.

"The Conference is being finalised around this pillar and I look forward to sharing our provisional program, which will feature presentations and panel discussions from government, regulators, operators, and suppliers on issues including transport infrastructure, technology, equipment, and industrial relations."

Information on the Conference packages and price-points the VTA is offering can be viewed [here](#), and to register online please follow [this link](#).

State Conference 2023 is proudly sponsored by TWUSUPER, whose support the VTA and freight industry has gratefully enjoyed for many years as the industry super fund for transport workers.

**Ends...**

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