

Factsheet: March 2009

# Port of Melbourne

## A big part of our daily lives

Imported goods from all over the world arrive at the Port of Melbourne.

These include things we use every day, such as food, clothes, cars, televisions, footwear, building products, furniture and electronics. Having these goods arrive on 'our doorstep' reduces transport costs and the price we all pay.

In turn, our products are exported efficiently and competitively to markets in other countries. This is good news for the thousands of Australians working in industries like agriculture and manufacturing whose livelihoods depend on exporting products around the world.

### The port and the economy

Australia is an island nation which relies on shipping and Melbourne is the country's largest container and general cargo port.

Port of Melbourne handles around 36% per cent of Australia's container trade and is widely recognised as our trading gateway to the world. It plays a vital economic role in Australia and the port handles tens of millions of dollars worth of exports every day.

In 2007, the port achieved a major milestone by setting a new Australian record as the first port in the country to handle more than two million containers in a 12-month period. This figure is expected to continue increasing as Melbourne's population grows.

In the year to 30 June 2008 the port achieved its 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of container growth, and total container trade numbers grew to 2.256 million TEU (Twenty-foot equivalent unit, the standard international measure for containers). In August 2008 the port was ranked within the world's top 50 container ports by Container Management magazine.

### Channel deepening and the port

Channel deepening will ensure Melbourne remains the most cost-effective port on the eastern seaboard. This will protect jobs, keep our exports competitive, drive new investment and industry and ensure strong, on-going business confidence in Victoria.

Channel deepening is the most critical infrastructure project in Victoria because we make and grow things (e.g. dairy products, fruit and vegetables, cereal grains and beverages) that need to be traded overseas for our economy's sake. The port is also a key hub for south-eastern Australia extending into southern NSW, across Victoria and Tasmania.

Similarly, other ports and waterways around the world recognise what an efficient port means to economic wellbeing and have carried out or are in the process of deepening.

### For more information:

**Telephone:** 1800 731 022  
**Visit:** [www.channelproject.com](http://www.channelproject.com)  
**Email:** [channelproject@portofmelbourne.com](mailto:channelproject@portofmelbourne.com)