



20 January 2012

Port trade reaches milestone

Container trade through the Port of Melbourne reached a milestone in 2011, passing through the 2.5 million container mark to record a throughput of 2,506,726 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) in the full calendar year, up 6.6% on the 2010 result.

The full 2011 calendar year container volume was boosted by strong trade in December of 221,128 TEU, up 6.2% on the same month last year.

In terms of the financial year to date ending 31 December, total container volumes have increased 9.2%. Full container imports and exports increased 9.8% and 12.9% respectively over this period.

Dry bulk trade increased 19.5% for the financial year to date while liquid bulk trade also increased 25.7%.

Overall, break bulk cargo also increased 9.7% for the financial year to date while new motor vehicle trade remained below last year's levels to be down 9.4%.

Commenting on the trade figures, Port of Melbourne Corporation Chief Executive Officer, Stephen Bradford, said:

"The trade figures show a strong upward trajectory since we announced reaching the 2 million TEU milestone four and a half years ago, despite a brief lull experienced during the global financial crisis in 2008-09.

"In short, the port is now handling an additional half a million containers driven by population growth and good recent rainfall which has helped boost commodity exports."

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