



Media release

The Hon Dr Denis Naphthine MP

Premier
Minister for Regional Cities
Minister for Racing

The Hon David Hodgett MP

Minister for Ports
Minister for Major Projects
Minister for Manufacturing

Thursday 14 March 2013

Work begins on \$1.6 billion port project

Construction has commenced at the Victorian Coalition Government's \$1.6 billion Port Capacity Project with Premier Denis Naphthine and Minister for Ports David Hodgett today celebrating the landmark occasion.

Dr Naphthine said the work would include purpose built road connections and a world class automotive facility with additional shipping berths and much needed 'on-dock' pre-delivery inspection facilities catering for Victoria's growing car trade.

"This is a project of massive significance that will create 1,100 new direct jobs and 1,900 indirect jobs in the export, import and freight sectors," Dr Naphthine said.

"It will also protect thousands of existing jobs and cement the Port of Melbourne's position as Australia's busiest container port, and ensure Victoria remains the nation's freight and logistics capital.

"The works at Webb Dock have been expedited enabling Melbourne's third container terminal and new world class automotive facilities to be operational in late 2016.

"The Coalition Government is getting on with the job of ensuring we have the necessary capacity to meet growing trade demands, generating additional employment, protecting existing jobs and boosting the economy," Dr Naphthine said.

Mr Hodgett said the competitive bidding process for the right to operate the container and automotive facilities were progressing well.

"The market offerings to be a part of the Port of Melbourne at Webb Dock are well subscribed by private sector operators who are fiercely competing for the rights to develop their businesses here," Mr Hodgett said.

"This project is subject to strict environmental and amenity management regimes which will apply to all works on the Webb Dock site.

"These rules set new benchmarks for construction works and include community and environmental standards while also providing the highest level of transparency and accountability.

"The declaration of the start of works today marks the beginning of an important milestone in creating jobs and protecting Victoria's economic future," Mr Hodgett said.

The first container is scheduled to cross the new dock in late 2016.

Media Contact: Mark Lee 0408 547 381

mark.lee@minstaff.vic.gov.au

Visit www.premier.vic.gov.au for more news