

19 August 2010

### **Market sounding begins to seek input on capacity options at the Port**

The Victorian Government previously announced that it had asked PoMC to conduct a market sounding process and to subsequently provide advice to it on options for the provision of additional container capacity at the Port of Melbourne.

PoMC CEO, Mr Stephen Bradford, said the market sounding had now started and was a chance for industry and the community to have an input so all alternatives could be explored in greater detail.

“From now until the end of September, we are seeking views from port stakeholders including current and prospective terminal operators, shipping lines, industry groups, local government, transport operators and the community on alternatives that could be considered to cater for Melbourne’s growing container trade demand,” Mr Bradford said.

“With total container trade through the Port of Melbourne forecast to double to around 4.4 million containers by 2020, we need to ensure the port, as a key component of our economy, is capable of achieving the next stage of container capacity development.

“Certainty of capacity to meet demand and support the sustainable growth of trade through the Port is vital in the context of delivering significant benefits to Victorians as a trading gateway to the world. I would encourage industry and the community to make a market sounding submission so we can consider their views and suggestions.”

Mr Bradford said the information gathered would be used to prepare advice to the Government on providing additional container capacity within the Port of Melbourne, Australia’s biggest container port.

Respondents can access the relevant information via the PoMC website at [www.portofmelbourne.com](http://www.portofmelbourne.com) or can call PoMC on (03) 9683 1615.

The content of all responses will be treated as confidential and must be received by close of business on 30 September.

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