



Port of Melbourne



19 March 2020

Port of Melbourne's Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

As the impact of COVID-19 on our community and the general business environment increases, I want to share how Port of Melbourne is approaching the ongoing operations of the port and what we are doing to ensure the safety of our people.

Our port

Port of Melbourne activated its crisis management and business continuity arrangements in the first week of March to coordinate our preparedness and response to the wide range of issues raised by COVID-19.

The safety and wellbeing of our people and their families, as well the general port community, is at the forefront of our decision making. Our actions are being guided by the advice from relevant Federal and State health authorities.

We have been liaising with key stakeholders on the changes impacting the port (such as vessel isolation rules) to determine how best we can assist with issues raised. We have also been pleased with the crisis management plans that key stakeholders have in place so that critical functions are maintained to keep the port operating.

Working with Port of Melbourne

We have structured our working arrangements so that our operations can continue largely as normal, although with some practical changes that reflect health guidance on social interactions.

We are continuing to operate from our 839 Collins St office location although we have implemented a flexible working environment whereby staff can work from home. Staff working remotely can still access all of their support systems as if they were in the office.

All of your regular contacts with Port of Melbourne will continue, although face-to-face meetings have ceased in line with health recommendations. Our staff are available through normal telephone contact points and we have video communication facilities available.

Impact on trade

Whilst this early part of the calendar year has seasonally lower volumes, the first two months of 2020 have seen reductions in trade compared to the same period in 2019. Our February volumes (by TEU) for international trade show import full containers are down around 10% whilst export volumes are less affected. Empty container volumes are down 18%. Trade with Tasmania is also down.





We expect the negative trend for international trade to continue through most of March, although we have had feedback from a range of industry participants that volumes out of China and parts of Asia will experience a short term lift in response to supply bottlenecks being removed (following the extended Chinese New Year break and COVID-19 impacts).

Port of Melbourne publishes its trade statistics [here](#) on its website each month. February statistics are currently being finalised for publication.

The trade outlook is difficult to assess, with the forward view becoming more dependent on the demand side response to the slowing economy.

If you have any queries on any matter, please don't hesitate to call your Port of Melbourne contact or call the office on 1300 857 662.

Yours sincerely

Brendan Bourke
Chief Executive Officer

