



# Port of Melbourne



24 November 2020

## Stakeholder Update

### Port of Melbourne Update 11

October 2020 was a record month for total container throughput (full and empty) with 284,958 Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEU), 4.5% above the same month last year.

Key factors in this result were the expected seasonal peak of import volumes to meet pre-Christmas inventory requirements underpinned by reports of strong retail sales. For instance during October the port has seen good growth in imports of furniture, domestic appliances, and toys and sporting equipment. Exports have also increased with timber and agricultural based products performing well.

We also note that shipping schedules are still recovering from interruptions in previous months with a number of vessels bypassing Port Botany and unloading at Melbourne to avoid the congestion, and rescheduling of some vessels that have omitted their Melbourne call due to schedule recovery efforts.

Overall October 2020 container trade results compared with October 2019 were as follows:

- Total container volumes (full and empty) up by 4.5%, with year to date volumes up by 7.2%;
- Full overseas container imports were up 9.8%;
- Full overseas exports were up 9.4%;
- Tasmanian full container volumes were up by 3.0%;
- Empty container movements were down 14.2%;
- Transshipment volumes were around 9,000 TEU higher;
- Total motor vehicles volumes (by units) decreased 0.9%;
- In the dry-bulk category, the month resulted in a 3.0% decrease, with a slight increase in sugar and gypsum offset by a reduction in cement and fertiliser; and
- Liquid bulk was down 10.9% overall mainly due to a reduction in imports of petroleum product.





### **Trade outlook**

Container trade data for the first two weeks of November 2020 is tracking at a level consistent with the corresponding period in 2019.

On 11 November 2020, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) notified the timber export industry that China's General Administration of Customs (GACC) had issued a ban on imports of sawn logs from Victoria due to concerns over live biosecurity hazards (bark beetle) being found during inspection.

This will have an impact on export volumes for this product category whilst the ban is in place.

### **Industrial relations**

Throughout October and month to date for November, no Protected Industrial Action (PIA) activities were undertaken at the international container terminals.

However, PIA has commenced at the national vessel towage operator Svitzer with a 4-hour work stoppage occurring on 13 November 2020 and on 24 November.

### **Cybersecurity**

The Port Cyber Security Forum (PCSF) established by Port of Melbourne (PoM) earlier this year has held its second meeting. Hosted by the Joint Cyber Security Centre (JCSC) – Melbourne, the virtual meeting was well attended by port operators and shipping lines that are stakeholders in the Port, with the addition of four representatives from TasPorts keen to be involved in the initiative.

The meeting agenda included a briefing from the Assistant Director of JCSC – Melbourne, Jane Forsythe, on the benefits of the JCSC Partnership Program, resources available from the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) and a current threat briefing. Department of Home Affairs representatives briefed the forum on the critical infrastructure reforms and their impacts on the maritime sector, followed by Q&A in which members of the forum asked questions on the draft legislation.

### **New reports**

Port of Melbourne recently released two significant reports: the [2050 Port Development Strategy](#) (2050 PDS) and the [2020 Sustainability Report](#).

The 2050 PDS is a roadmap for the future development of the Port. It outlines the high-level plans and approach for developing the capacity and efficiency of the Port for the next 30 years, while also providing a planning framework that is adaptable and responsive to changing needs over time.

The 2050 PDS outlines 10 key projects that will improve capacity at the Port and respond to the needs of a growing Victoria and has been shaped by extensive industry, government and community consultation.



The Port of Melbourne 2020 Sustainability Report highlights how the organisation has managed its material environmental, social and governance risks and opportunities amid a challenging operating year.

Please call your Port of Melbourne contact or email us at [covid19@portofmelbourne.com](mailto:covid19@portofmelbourne.com) if you have any queries.

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