



The Hon Melissa Horne MP

Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Ports and Freight
Minister for Roads and Road Safety

121 Exhibition Street
Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia

Ref: CMIN-1-23-6689

Mr Paul Zalai
pzalai@ftalliance.com.au

Dear Mr Zalai

Thank you for your email of 5 December 2023 and subsequent email of 8 December 2023 regarding support for regulation of landside charges.

The Government continues to monitor the behaviour of all stevedores in relation to increasing landside access charges which balances the need for stevedores to reasonably recover costs whilst not increasing charges unreasonably for transport operators and cargo owners.

As you are aware, since 2020, Victoria has had in place the Voluntary Pricing Protocol (VPP) to monitor the provision of price notifications by stevedores to the container transport industry. The Protocol, which is now being used nationally, provides guidance on the timing of notices to industry, provision of justification, and opportunities for industry feedback. Whilst the VPP has been very successful in improving the clarity of timing and process for changing landside charges, I have also become concerned, following the most recent DP World charge increases, that the voluntary model is not proving as effective in keeping price rises for landside access charges to reasonable levels.

I can confirm that I have recently written to Minister Catherine King, the Commonwealth Government Minister responsible for the ports sector, to advocate for her to further investigate the need to regulate stevedore landside access charges at Australian ports. Specifically, the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Australia's Maritime Logistics Industry recommended introduction of a 'mandatory code' for stevedore pricing overseen by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

Thank you for sharing your concerns. Your feedback is important to the Allan Labor Government as it continues to work hard to improve supply chain affordability and competitiveness in Victoria.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Horne', written in a cursive style.

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05/03/2024