

Media Release

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



Thursday, 6 June 2024

CHARTING THE PATH FORWARD FOR VICTORIA'S FREIGHT FUTURE

The Allan Labor Government is working with industry to secure our supply chains, decarbonise our freight and ensure Victoria remains the freight and logistics capital of Australia.

Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne met with more than 80 freight and logistics industry leaders to discuss the next phase of the *Victorian Freight Plan* and chart a path forward for the state's \$36 billion freight sector.

Consultation has commenced on the revised plan which will be developed in partnership with industry, and examine pathways to decarbonise the freight and logistics sector as we work towards Victoria's ambitious 2045 net-zero emissions targets.

Industry is already coming to the table with operators like Patrick Terminals at the Port of Melbourne investing in ten new hybrid straddles, reducing fuel consumption by up to 40 per cent and supporting the Government's decarbonisation strategy.

Since the Victorian Freight Plan was launched in 2018, the sector has been impacted by the pandemic, global conflicts and disruptions, which have put the importance of securing supply chains firmly in the spotlight.

Despite these challenges, the Labor Government's more than \$360 million investment in rail freight maintenance since 2020 has given industry the confidence to put more of their goods on trains – helping to take trucks off our roads.

This investment has led to heavier and longer trains being used on our network and has led to a 95 per cent increase in grain volumes moved by rail in Victoria between July and December 2023 when compared the same period in 2022.

The freight and logistics industry is a major economic enabler, particularly for the state's agricultural sector, and employs more than 260,000 Victorians.

Victoria continues to lead the nation when it comes to exporting goods, with the Port of Melbourne handling more than a third of Australia's container trade.

Consultation is now open for the updated *Victorian Freight Plan* and closes on 30 June 2024, you can submit your feedback on: engage.vic.gov.au/victorian-freight-plan-update.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne

"Victoria is home to the busiest port in the nation, handling more than a third of the country's container trade and contributing \$6 billion to the state's economy."

"From our primary producers through to our stevedores, our freight and logistics workforce helps keep our economy moving and we are working with industry to ensure Victoria remains the freight capital of Australia."

Media contact: Ruby Wallace 0415476743 | ruby.wallace@minstaff.vic.gov.au