



Port of Melbourne Fee Freeze Welcome, But Proposed Rents Require Resolution

The Australian Logistics Council (ALC) has welcomed the announcement by the Victorian Government that fees at the Port of Melbourne would remain at 2014-2015 levels or increase only by CPI, but says the outstanding issue of proposed rents to be charged at the port still needs to be resolved.

From a logistics industry perspective, proposed rental increases is the big issue that will impact on the future competitiveness of the Port of Melbourne.

“We welcome the fact that the Victorian Government has listened to the concerns expressed by the logistics industry around port fees and charges, in particular, its decision to freeze export fees next financial year, with an intention to reduce them over the following four years,” said Michael Kilgariff, ALC Managing Director.

“However, the excessive rents proposed remains an ongoing issue, and if not resolved sensibly, will have a detrimental impact across the supply chain.

“Significant increases to port rents will push up the price for users of the port, costs will be passed on to consumers and make it harder for local manufacturers to compete,” he said.

In relation to the legislation tabled in Parliament, Mr Kilgariff said [ALC supports asset recycling](#) where it is in the community’s long term economic interests.

“ALC has been an industry leader in the debate on the need for governments to recycle appropriate infrastructure assets and for the proceeds to be invested in productive logistics infrastructure,” he said.

“ALC supports the long term lease of the Port of Melbourne, including the Government’s plans to offer a 50-year lease for the port as well as its proposal for the Victorian Essential Services Commission to provide regulatory oversight - both of which are sensible policy propositions.

“The Government’s proposals in relation to these issues demonstrate it has listened closely to industry’s concerns – we look forward to industry’s concerns also being recognised by the Port of Melbourne in relation to proposed rental increases,” he concluded.

Further information on the PoM fees and charges is available at [Reference Tariff Schedule 2015-2016](#)

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