

Media Release

The Hon Danny Pearson MP

Assistant Treasurer

Minister for Regulatory Reform

Minister for Government Services

Minister for Creative Industries



Friday, 20 May 2022

PORT OF MELBOURNE COMMITMENT ON PRICING, CONSULTATION

The Andrews Labor Government has accepted the Port of Melbourne's enforceable commitments made on pricing and consultation, to ensure the port operates to the benefit of all Victorians.

The Port's package of commitments responds to the Essential Services Commission's review of the Port's compliance with the official Pricing Order – under which tariffs can only be increased once a year, and by no more than the Consumer Price Index.

The Labor Government legislated to provide this important protection for port users and end consumers, and the Essential Services Commission's report found that port users had not been financially impacted by identified areas of non-compliance.

The Port of Melbourne's commitments can be expected to place a downward pressure on future tariffs and provide clearer processes for the port to engage with businesses, ensuring that the port continues to operate to the benefit of all Victorians.

Legislation relating to the lease of the Port of Melbourne gives the Essential Services Commission important regulatory responsibilities, including the undertaking of five-yearly reviews of the Port of Melbourne's Pricing Order.

The Port of Melbourne's response to the Essential Services Commission report is available at transport.vic.gov.au/ports-and-freight.

Quotes attributable to Assistant Treasurer Danny Pearson

"The Port of Melbourne's commitments will deliver benefits to port users and the wider Victorian community."

"The Essential Services Commission plays an important regulatory role in ensuring consumers' interests are protected – this outcome demonstrates the system is working."

Quote attributable to Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne

"We welcome the Port of Melbourne's response which provides port users greater certainty while also ensuring fair outcomes for Victorian consumers."