

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



Friday, 22 December 2023

PORTS VICTORIA APPOINTS NEW CEO

The Allan Labor Government welcomes Craig Walker as the new Chief Executive Officer for Ports Victoria.

Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne says Mr Walker's appointment will bring extensive leadership and experience to the commercial ports role.

In previous positions, Mr Walker has held various advisor roles within government and as Chief Operations Officer and Executive General Manager for Gladstone Ports Corporation.

He has also worked with rail freight company QR National and has sat on numerous boards including a position at North Queensland Bulk Ports.

With freight volumes expected to more than double over the next thirty years, the safe and efficient operation of our ports remains a key to Victoria's economic growth.

Approximately \$26 billion of locally produced and manufactured exports pass through the state's commercial ports annually, handling almost a quarter of Australia's total food and fibre exports.

Since beginning operations in 2021, Ports Victoria manages maritime navigation and operational safety for the ports of Melbourne, Geelong and Hastings and oversees the operations at the port of Portland.

Mr Walker will commence his new role in February 2024.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne

"I am delighted to announce Craig Walker's appointment as Ports Victoria CEO – his extensive experience will be vital as we manage rapid growth to meet the future needs of our freight task."

"Victoria's commercial ports are our engines for economic growth and we look forward to Craig's extensive background, leadership, insight and knowledge playing a key role in the sector."

Quotes attributable to Ports Victoria CEO Craig Walker

"I'm very excited at the opportunity and to be working with the team in leading Ports Victoria in an important period of growth, diversity and change."

"Our work cannot be underestimated in facilitating the growth and prosperity of the commercial ports of Victoria."