



TOMAX
NEWS

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PLUS:



TARIFF CONCESSIONS GAZETTE (TC)

Tariff Concession Orders (TCOs) are an Australian Government revenue concession that exists where there are no known Australian manufacturers of goods that are substitutable for imported goods.

The weekly Tomax Client Newsletter will contain a link to the latest Gazette document so that you can stay updated.

[CLICK TO VIEW LATEST GAZETTE](#)

\$15M INVESTMENT TO EASE HUNTER TRAFFIC BOTTLENECK

The Australian and New South Wales governments are investing \$15 million to advance planning efforts aimed at easing congestion and improving freight movement at a key traffic bottleneck in the Hunter region, north of Sydney.

Motorists currently face significant delays at the intersection of the M1 Pacific Motorway, John Renshaw Drive, Weakleys Drive and the New England Highway in Beresfield. These delays are caused by heavy traffic volumes, multiple traffic signals and insufficient road capacity.

The John Renshaw Drive upgrade is a joint initiative, with the Australian Government contributing \$12 million and the NSW Government providing \$3 million. The NSW Government will explore various improvements, including upgrades to the M1 Motorway and Weakleys Drive intersection, lane duplication of Weakleys Drive between Enterprise Drive and Canavan Drive and improved access from Weakleys Drive to the New England Highway.

Once completed, these enhancements will shorten travel times for motorists and

improve freight efficiency along a crucial transport corridor that connects to the Port of Newcastle and Newcastle Airport.

Further traffic and economic analysis is underway to determine the final scope and design of the proposed upgrades.

“John Renshaw Drive is a key connector between Maitland, Newcastle, Cessnock, Wallsend and the Upper Hunter,” says NSW Regional Transport and Roads Minister Jenny Aitchison, “upgrades to John Renshaw Drive will support the development of proposed industrial areas as well as the broader regional economy by providing more efficient access for commuters and heavy freight between the Lower and Upper Hunter and to key regional employment areas such as the Port of Newcastle and Newcastle Airport.”

The timeline for construction will depend on additional funding and necessary planning approvals.

Chawla, M. (2025). Planning underway for major NSW drive project. Retrieved from <https://mhdsupplychain.com.au/2025/02/10/planning-underway-for-major-nsw-drive-project/> on 20th February, 2025.



WORLD CONTAINER INDEX DROPS

Drewry's World Container Index fell 10% this week to US\$2,795 per 40-foot container, reaching its lowest level since May 2024.

The index is now 73% below its pandemic peak of US\$10,377 in September 2021 but remains 97% higher than the pre-pandemic 2019 average of US\$1,420.

So far this year, the composite index has averaged US\$3,465, which is US\$583 above the 10-year average of US\$2,881, inflated by the 2020-22 COVID-19 surge.

Declining Freight Rates

- Shanghai to New York: Down 13% (US\$748) to US\$5,126.
- Shanghai to Los Angeles: Down 11% (US\$504) to US\$3,888.
- Shanghai to Rotterdam: Down 9% (US\$269) to US\$2,618.
- Shanghai to Genoa: Down 8% (US\$326) to US\$3,837.
- Rotterdam to New York: Down 3% (US\$69) to US\$2,394.

Meanwhile, rates remained unchanged for routes from Rotterdam to Shanghai, Los Angeles to Shanghai, and New York to Rotterdam.

Drewry predicts a slight decline in spot rates next week as shipping capacity increases.



SHIPPING LINES HIKE RATES ON ASIA-AUSTRALIA ROUTES

The sharp decline in Asia-Australia freight rates—particularly from North and East Asia—has led major shipping lines to implement rate restorations, effective 1 March 2025.

Rate Restorations by Major Carriers

- COSCO Shipping Line will apply a USD 200/TEU and USD 400/FEU rate restoration for all southbound shipments from Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia to Australian ports.
- MSC has revised its rate restoration for cargo from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and Southeast Asia to Australia, now set at USD 500/TEU—double the previously advised level.
- Hapag-Lloyd has announced two General Rate Increases (GRIs):
 - Southbound GRI: USD 300/TEU for all cargo from Asia to Oceania. The scope is as follows: Brunei, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam, to Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna Island.

- Northbound GRI: USD 300/TEU for exports from from Brunei, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna Island to Indian Subcontinent & Middle East, i.e. India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia & Jordan.

Additional Surcharges and Fees

- Maersk Line will revise Equipment Positioning Service tariffs for Devonport, Brisbane, Fremantle, Melbourne, and New Zealand from 27 February 2025 for regulated countries and 1 February 2025 for non-regulated countries.
- Vehicle Booking Service fees—both import and export—will also be adjusted.
- ANL & CMA CGM New Zealand will introduce a late payment fee of NZD 70 for invoices overdue by more than 10 days, effective 1 March 2025.
 - Export Bills of Lading and Import Delivery Orders will only be released once outstanding invoices and fees are fully paid.

These adjustments reflect ongoing volatility in shipping rates, with further fluctuations expected in the coming months.



QUEENSLAND BOOSTS TRADE TIES WITH INDIA & SINGAPORE

The Queensland government is leading a trade mission to Singapore and India, aiming to strengthen economic ties and explore new trade opportunities with both nations.

Trade Minister Ros Bates is visiting India and Singapore this week, promoting Queensland's refreshed approach to international trade.

India was Queensland's largest coal export market in 2024, with exports valued at \$12.8 billion, accounting for 95% of Australia's coal exports to the country. Meanwhile, Singapore was Australia's sixth-largest source of foreign investment in 2023, contributing \$141 billion, including \$39 billion in direct investment.

Minister Bates emphasized the importance of these trading relationships in addressing skills shortages and creating jobs.

"India is Queensland's fourth largest goods export market and Indian leaders understand how important Queensland is to their future energy needs and economic growth strategies across a variety of sectors," Minister Bates said.

BioAsia 2025, held in Hyderabad, fosters investment and collaboration in health industries such as biopharmaceuticals, digital health, medical devices, and advanced therapeutics. Queensland will be well represented, with 10 leading health-tech and life sciences companies, along with research institutions, participating in the event.

"With 10 leading Queensland health-tech and life sciences companies and research institutions taking part in BioAsia 2025, this is an important opportunity to demonstrate Queensland innovation and contribute to better global health outcomes."

Queensland Governor Jeannette Young will also participate in the Indian leg of the trade mission, reinforcing the state's commitment to strengthening its international partnerships.

Williams, A. (2025). QLD on trade mission to India and Singapore. Retrieved from <https://www.thedcn.com.au/region/australia/qld-on-trade-mission-to-india-and-singapore/> on 20th February, 2025.





THE HISTORY OF TOMAX

Check out Tomax's historical timeline below!

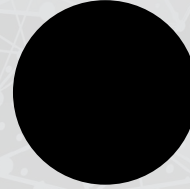


1987

M&D Jones Customs Pty Ltd begins trading - founded by Maurie Jones

Tomax Container Line Pty Ltd created as the freight forwarding arm of the business

1989



1999

Melbourne business relocates to The Base in Port

Tomax office in Hong Kong established

2003



2008

Tomax Container Line merged into M&D Jones Customs and begins trading as Tomax Logistics Australia

Tomax office in Shanghai established

2009



2010

Maurie Jones sadly passes away but his legacy lives on in the Tomax family

Tomax Logistics Warehousing Pty Ltd established

2011



2014

Melbourne team move to our new Global HQ in Clayton

Tomax office in the USA established

2017





2019

Sydney operation begins with 9 staff



2020

Perth warehouse opens



2023

Tomax Group takes full control and ownership of Shanghai operation



2025

Tomax Transport Pty Ltd begins trading providing courier and domestic delivery services



2019

Brisbane depot, warehouse and office opens



2022

Now over 100 Tomax staff worldwide



2023

Adelaide depot and warehouse opens and Tomax now has locations in all 5 major Australian ports



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

ATAPANA POE

MR TRUCK DRIVER
TOMAX TRANSPORT MELBOURNE

What is your role at Tomax?

I am a driver who looks after the NSW regional route.

What do you like to do on the weekends?

I enjoy spending time with my grandchildren and taking them to church on the weekends.

Tell us about your background and family?

I am originally from Samoa but came here as a Kiwi. I am married with three beautiful children and now five awesome grandchildren.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?

We always love travelling to the U.S.A.



Your favourite cuisine?

Pacific Islander food!

What makes you smile?

Fun fact, my full name is Atapana but everyone calls me "Ata" which is the first three letters of my name. "Ata" means smile in Samoa so I always have a smile on my face!



FRIDAY FUNNIES

We hope the following jokes will put a smile on your face as we approach the weekend!

Why is it so windy inside a stadium?
There are hundreds of fans.

What do cows read?
CATTLE-logs.

What does a cloud wear under his raincoat?
Thunderwear.

Why did the garden feel overcrowded?
There wasn't mushroom.

What's a snake's strongest subject in school?
Hiss-tory.

Why do bowling pins have such a hard life?
They're always getting knocked down.

Why are penguins socially awkward?
Because they can't break the ice.

What do Olympic sprinters eat before a race?
Nothing. They fast.

What did the mother elephant say to her kids when they weren't behaving?
Tusk, tusk.

Why was the weightlifter upset?
She worked with dumbbells.

What do you call a parade of rabbits hopping backwards?
A receding hare-line.

Why is it annoying to eat next to basketball players?
They dribble all the time.

How did the barber win the race?
He knew a short cut.

Why can't you give Elsa a balloon?
She'll Let It Go.

What is the dog's favourite button on a remote?
Paws.

What kind of nut doesn't like money?
Cash ew.



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