

MELBOURNE PROTESTORS TARGET TRUCKS IN VANDALISM

In Melbourne, trucks have become the latest target of protesters, marking a dangerous escalation of coordinated vandalism against the freight industry, according to container transport logistics operators. Today's protest, centred around a major Defence Industry Expo at the Melbourne Convention Centre, saw at least five heavy vehicles sabotaged at major intersections. Protesters cut the air lines connecting the prime movers to their trailers, essentially immobilising the trucks.

One incident took place on Power Street to the northeast of the city, while the others occurred on Wurundjeri Way to the west. Another case occurred along a key container truck route linking Swanson Dock Precinct with Webb Dock.

CTAA Director, Neil Chambers, advised that "given the fact that trucks were targeted in this way in various locations in Melbourne, it seems to be a deliberate and premeditated act of vandalism." He criticised the protesters, stating that, "protesters have made public statements that they have a right to protest peacefully. But, that right should be forfeited when you come armed with

weapons and implements with a clear intent to damage property and potentially endanger lives."

The protest has severely disrupted container freight movements related to the Port of Melbourne today, and it's anticipated that these actions may continue throughout the week.

In response, the Container Transport Alliance Australia (CTAA) has requested the Victorian Government, through the Department of Transport, to implement a temporary detour for heavy vehicles (up to 85.5 tonnes Gross Vehicle Mass) via the Bolte Bridge to access Webb Dock. Chambers noted that this detour was effectively used during the West Gate Tunnel Project roadworks closures and is not seeking a permanent change but rather assistance in this "force majeure" situation from the government and road manager Transurban.

CTAA. (2024). Melbourne Protesters Cut Air Lines on Trucks in Acts of Dangerous Vandalism Retrieved from <https://www.ctaction.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/0911-CTAA-Media-Release-Melbourne-Protesters-Cut-Air-Lines-on-Trucks-in-Acts-of-Danerous-Vandalism.pdf> on 11th September, 2024.

