

Port of Melbourne commits to Tasmanian market

Australia's largest container and general cargo port has opened a dedicated office in Tasmania to facilitate trade across Bass Strait, Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC) announced today.

With almost 3600 ship visits a year from over 30 shipping lines, the Port of Melbourne is a vital logistics hub for Tasmania's access to domestic and international markets. Last financial year, Tasmania accounted for around 25% of port's containerised trade and is forecast to grow.

Welcoming the opening of a new trade office in Tasmania, PoMC Chief Executive Officer, Stephen Bradford said:

"Tasmania is a key trade market so it is entirely appropriate that we recognise its importance by having a dedicated representative on the ground.

"It makes business sense to get a better understanding of our customer's needs and forge relationships which can benefit Tasmania's exporters and cargo owners.

"Melbourne is a world class port which is underpinned by ongoing capital investment by PoMC. Last financial year we invested over \$140,000 a day on average in port infrastructure.

"As a result, we offer a wide variety of facilities and services and we have already identified a number of strategic initiatives to facilitate trade growth for Tasmania."

Based in Hobart, PoMC's Tasmanian Trade Facilitation Manager, Gary McCarthy, has recently commenced in the newly created role with a background in supply chain logistics and business development.

It is PoMC's intention to hold an industry participant event, in early 2009. This will be designed to foster our co-operative support of the market and bring customers and stakeholders together, such that any issues can be considered in an open forum, coupled with an information session providing a briefing on the current status by PoMC. If there are any specific issues for this forum, we would appreciate your forward notice. We will correspond with customers and stakeholders closer to the event with further details.

We look forward to working with industry stakeholders, increasing our knowledge of the Tasmanian markets, and providing a valuable resource for your benefit.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Gary McCarthy on Tel: 03 6245 1890, P.O. Box 2141, Howrah, TAS 7018.

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