

Australian Peak Shippers Association – Report from the Chairman

By SEAN RICHARDS, APSA Chair

Welcome to the latest edition of Across Borders. The last three months have remained challenging for our members. Whilst the Australian economy remains relatively resilient, the reality is that economic growth is slow. Add to this, the negative global market impact of technology and trade tensions; the lagging impact of a consolidating shipping market; volatile fuel prices and the looming financial impost of low sulphur fuel, the current and near future outlook for our members is and will remain challenging.

All the more reason, therefore, for Australian importers and exporters to collectively orchestrate activities and to proactively contribute to the agenda, output and results of APSA. I cannot make the point strongly enough that APSA can and will only be effective if the Board are focussed and active, and the members proactively exercise their collective rights. To this end, in part, I mentioned in the last edition of Across Borders that the APSA Board is currently looking to extend the Secretariat appointment of FTA and is working with the latter on the development of a 5 year plan, with the key focus being continuity, the articulation of carefully considered key deliverables and how best to organise and focus APSA to the best benefit of its members. We are scheduled to review the Strategy framework during our upcoming Board meeting.

Moving to the issues of today:

1. Infrastructure charges. The Victorian Government has now officially commenced the review into Pricing and Access at the Port of Melbourne. APSA will be providing evidence to the review

12 August 2019 – Sydney – Meeting the Minister

A contingent of FTA / APSA members met with the New South Wales Minister for Transport and Roads and accepted the invitation to work collaboratively and directly with senior government representatives on identified key advocacy issues affecting exporters and the wider international trade sector. Further member updates to be provided.



Ryan Smith (Amazon), Eimear McDonough (Namoi Cotton / Australian Cotton Shippers Association), Stuart Wallace (Ministerial Advisor), Olga Harriton (Manildra Group), Paul Zalai (FTA/APSA), Flaminio Dondina (Casella Family Brands), Kurt Wilkinson (Fletcher International Exports), Travis Brooks-Garrett (FTA/APSA), Daniel Casella (Casella Family Brands), Roger Fletcher (Fletcher International Exports), The Hon. Andrew Constance, MP (NSW Transport and Roads), Patrick Hutchinson (Australian Meat Industry Council), Peter Simpson (Manildra Group), Andrew Crawford (FTA/APSA)

and will continue to work with Freight Victoria in protecting the interests of Victoria’s importers, exporters and port users. In addition, a contingent of APSA and FTA members met with the Hon. Andrew Constance (NSW Minister for Transport, Roads and Ports) to call for a similar enquiry in NSW. APSA asked the Minister to consider intervention in container terminal landside pricing, as well as raising

several other transport and freight policy opportunities;

2. PRSN / Port of Melbourne Rail Solution / MSIS. APSA continues to work with the Port of Melbourne and the Victorian Government in order to ensure that shippers interests are being considered in the development of rail solutions. There have been some really positive developments which APSA will communicate in due course;

3. BMSB. FTA / APSA have lodged a submission to the Inspector General of Biosecurity, representing the interests of cargo owners and logistics service providers. As a result of this submission, the Department of Agriculture have adopted many of our recommendations and, most importantly, have significantly improved their industry consultation in the lead up to this current season;

4. Shipping Inquiry. After APSA presented evidence to the Senate Committee inquiry into Australian shipping earlier in the year, we now await the latter's recommendations. More recently, APSA has been asked to contribute to a review into Part X of the Competition and Consumer Act by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). Part X is the legislation that seeks to protect Australian importers and exporters in accessing frequent, reliable and affordable shipping line services.

5. Australian Trusted Trader. FTA / APSA is working with the Department of Home Affairs and our members to ensure that ATT benefits are meaningful and that new benefits are forthcoming. FTA and APSA are currently preparing a

submission for consideration by border and biosecurity agencies;

6. Part X negotiations. APSA has been involved in several new registrations and variations to shipping line services, including the Panama Direct Service and the Joint Service Agreement for Southeast Asia to Australia. In these negotiations, APSA seeks to secure minimum levels of service for Australian shippers, including the frequency of rotations, minimum capacities, and minimum notification periods for new charges and changes to services;

7. Industrial Relations. Over the past three months, APSA has been a leading voice through the DP World Australia industrial relations crisis and the ongoing dispute at Hutchison Ports Australia. This includes our advocacy with shipping lines as well as highlighting the cost impacts to industry. APSA has sought to help minimise the impact on shippers by working with the affected terminals on their communications and engaging with mainstream media to highlight the impact of the dispute on shippers and the wider economy;

8. Tasmanian Freight & Logistics Forum. In June, APSA co-hosted the

successful Tasmanian Freight & Logistics Forum, attracting a record crowd including a keynote presentation from the Tasmanian Premier, the Hon Will Hodgman MP. This conference provided an opportunity to update members on the latest industry developments, including low sulphur fuel surcharges, port developments and updates from State and Federal biosecurity agencies;

9. In exciting news, FTA/APSA/CTAA have won a grant from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) to deliver a Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative (HVSI) project. This will allow APSA to deliver face-to-face and online training to promote best practices in safe container loading. APSA would like to sincerely thank the Hon. Michael McCormack MP and the staff at the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR).

These are, indeed, challenging but exciting times ahead of us and we look forward to your active and ongoing support



Australian Peak Shippers Association Inc. (APSA)



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