

SCI Australia Pty Ltd

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Welcome Message

Welcome to the May newsletter for the clients and friends of SCI Australia. This newsletter is designed to be an informative source about the company and the general industry and includes news, forthcoming events and the lighter side of the people who work for SCI .

We hope that you find this newsletter beneficial and the information provided of great value and interest. We appreciate your suggestions and input for future issues.



Southbound General Rate Increase (GRI)

United States to Australia & New Zealand

We wish to advise that effective 15th June 2015 a General Rate Increase (GRI) will be applied on all cargo moving from the United States and Canada to Australia & New Zealand in the following amounts:

USD 175 / 20ft container

USD 350 / 40ft container



Cessation of Emergency Measures for Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

The Department of Agriculture (the department) will cease the emergency measures for the stink bugs from 1 May 2015. This means that target goods arriving on or after this date will no longer be subject to pre-shipment treatment requirements.

This pest has been routinely intercepted in small numbers on a range of goods from a range of overseas countries over the last decade. However, this season, these pests were intercepted in very large numbers, in a viable condition, in cargo imported from a number of load ports in the USA.

As a result of the emergency measures introduced by the department to manage this significant biosecurity risk, there have been no further viable stink bugs interceptions over the last few months. The department continues to intercept a few stink bugs but these represent a considerably lesser biosecurity risk and can be managed under existing controls at the border for this and other hitchhiking pests.

The department would like to acknowledge that the successful completion of this season's emergency could not have been achieved without the continued and active collaboration of our industry partners over this period. The department will use the experiences and data from the current season's emergency to prepare a forward policy and operational strategy to deal with this pest in future seasons. These should be available for consultation and comment mid June, well in advance of the commencement of the next season for this pest in October/November.

In the interim, importers are again reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that their goods are imported free of biosecurity risks such as this stink bug in all months of the year, not just during seasonal emergency periods.



Victoria to invest \$600m on freight, roads and bridges

The state government in Victoria will invest \$38.5m for the first stage of the West Gate Distributor project to improve truck access to the port of Melbourne, according to budget papers.

This was one of the \$574m worth of initiatives included in yesterday's state budget that are aimed at reducing congestion and increasing freight productivity. The stated aim of the West Gate Distributor project is to take 5000 trucks off the West Gate Bridge daily. The first stage will comprise works on the northern section of the West Gate Distributor.

A total of \$2.9m will be invested in the remainder of this financial year; \$16m in 2015/16; and \$19.6m the following year. This will include the widening of Whitehall Street, and the strengthening and widening of Shepherd Bridge over the Maribyrnong River.

But Container Transport Australia advised that truck operators are concerned about the viability of the West Gate Distributor plan due to the on-off ramps onto Hyde Street from the West Gate Bridge and the increased interaction between trucks and private vehicles in the port precinct.

He said the recent proposal by toll road operator Transurban is a "more attractive project that provides, in the medium term, much better access to the port of Melbourne from trucks in the west." He said the unsolicited bid proposal for the Transurban project is up to stage three of a five-stage process for government approval. Meanwhile, \$76m will go towards 23 projects on key freight corridors so heavy vehicles can take more direct routes to their destinations.

In addition, state-wide bridge strengthening will commence to allow larger trucks on direct freight routes.

Strikes called off at ports Botany and Jackson

Industrial action scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday last week was called off after the Port Authority of New South Wales and the Maritime Union of Australia were able to close a deal on their enterprise agreement.

Strikes at Port Botany had been threatened by the union and would have affected the cutter master and deckhand on boats that carry pilots between wharves and ships at both Port Botany and Port Jackson.

According to the union, it was unable to come to an agreement with the Port Authority of NSW over terms and conditions for one employee at the port of Yamba. However, a spokesperson for the port authority advised that a deal on the enterprise agreement had effectively been completed and that the issue of the employee at Yamba had only come up very late in negotiations.

In any event, on April 27, the port authority announced it had reached an in-principle agreement “covering all the outstanding issues that were presented, thereby bringing the negotiations to a close”

Strong cargo rebound for Californian ports as anchorages empty out

All three Californian ports are reporting a strong rebound in container volumes after months of disruption that had seen throughout plummet.

The recovery follows clear signs that industrial issues that have blighted all US west coast ports throughout the winter are coming to an end after labour leaders recently voted in support of a new contract of employment for Longshore workers. Rank and file members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union will be balloted next month.

Further evidence that port activity is returning to normal is forming from ship movement activity.

The Marine Exchange of Southern California reports that the number of vessels at anchor outside Los Angeles and Long Beach because of congestion issues within the port complex was down to seven, of which just four were containerships.

Three of these were 10,000 teu or larger, the biggest the 13,000 teu Cosco Excellence. Los Angeles, the largest container port in the US, reported that its March numbers were up by 17.3% on a year ago to 791,963 teu.

SCI Staff Birthdays

Nick Isgro

17th May

Staff Years of Service at SCI Australia

Julie McDonald has been with the SCI family for 6 years.

Peter Sowerbutts has been with the SCI family for 2 years.

How is your Trivia Knowledge?

1. What is the hardest nut to crack?
2. How many ships were in the first fleet?
3. What is the highest grossing Australian movie?
4. What Australian movie includes the phrase 'tell him he's dreaming'?
5. In what year was the decimal currency introduced?

APRIL 2015

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MAY 2015

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JUNE 2015

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Staff News

Mile Jurcic and Steve Christensen attended a PGA conference in Phuket



FEEDBACK

Should you wish to discuss any of the issues contained in this newsletter please contact your CSO or any of the people listed below;

**Mile' Jurcic, Jeremy Nash, Emma Hrehoresin (Melbourne)
Mark Hingston (Brisbane)**

**Thank you for your continued support.
SCI Australia Pty Ltd**

*** Disclaimer**

As this information originates from external sources, SCI Australia cannot be held liable for the accuracy of this information.

Answers to our trivia questions -

1. Macadamia

2. 11

3. Crocodile Dundee

4. The Castle

5. 1966