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MPW SUPPLY CHAIN – INDUSTRY UPDATE – 16TH APRIL 2025

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AUSTRALIA & NZ NEWS

MARCH TONNAGE UP AT PILBARA PORTS

In March, Pilbara Ports saw a throughput of 69.5 million tonnes, up 4% compared to March 2024. Port Hedland achieved a monthly throughput of 51.5Mt, a 2% increase. Imports through Port Hedland totalled 171,000 tonnes, up 4%. The Port of Dampier delivered a total throughput of 15.7Mt, a 1% decrease. Imports through Dampier totalled 93,000 tonnes, down 23%. Total throughput across all ports since 1 July 2024 is 567.1Mt. The DCN

ABF WARNS CONSUMERS AFTER MAN SENTENCED FOR NUCLEAR IMPORT

A Sydney man was sentenced for importing nuclear material without permits, becoming the first person sentenced under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation (Safeguards) Act 1987. The Australian Border Force (ABF) investigation began in May 2023. The man imported plutonium, depleted uranium, lutetium, thorium, and radium between December 2022 and May 2023. He received conditional good behaviour bonds. Multiple agencies, including ABF, ANSTO, and ASNO, were involved. The ABF emphasizes the importance of authorization for importing nuclear materials. The DCN

MELBOURNE UNVEILS 2055 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Port of Melbourne has released its Draft 2055 Port Development Strategy (Draft 2055 PDS) for public feedback, aiming to publish the final version in December. The strategy outlines a vision for the port's development from 2025 to 2055, addressing growing trade needs and service requirements. PoM is engaging stakeholders through briefing sessions to gather input and feedback. The final strategy will be published after considering stakeholders' feedback. The DCN

SUPPLY CHAIN NEWS

FORWARDERS SHOULD BE WARY OF GRANTING EXTENDED CREDIT, SAYS TT CLUB

Freight forwarders should be cautious of fraudulent customers offering lucrative loads. TT Club revealed the prevalence of credit fraud over the last year, which leaves operators with uncollectible freight costs. Fraud can escalate quickly, and credit fraud is a risk for all in the global supply chain. TT Club advises extensive due diligence when advancing credit to new customers. Withholding extended credit until a trusting relationship is established is recommended. Knowledge of customers at all levels is crucial. The Loadstar

‘CHAOS AFTER CHAOS’ COMING FROM DE MINIMIS CHANGES AND MORE TARIFFS

Logistics firms focusing on ecommerce are preparing for disruptions in May when the US withdraws the de minimis exemption for online purchases from China and Hong Kong1. The White House has updated its rules, increasing duties and charges. Ecommerce parcels from China will require customs clearance from 2 May. Firms are advising clients to be compliant and brace for delays. The changes are expected to cause significant disruptions and challenges. The Loadstar

OPEN TARIFF WINDOW COULD SEE RUSH OF ELECTRONICS AND PHARMA INTO THE US

Electronics and pharmaceutical shippers are preparing for disruptions due to new US tariffs. The White House excluded electronics from 125% tariffs but imposed 20% fentanyl tariffs. Non-Chinese electronics face no tariffs. The timing of the investigation is unclear. Pharmaceuticals will also face tariffs. Mainland China accounted for significant portions of US imports of electronics. The changes are expected to cause significant disruptions. The Loadstar

OCEANFREIGHT

VOLUMES SET TO 'FALL OFF A CLIFF' AS US FIRMS HIT THE BRAKES ON SOURCING AND BOOKINGS

Cargo owners should brace for a "cliff event" similar to the turmoil in the early days of the Covid pandemic, possibly followed by a surge in traffic, clogging up supply chains, later in the year. Elevated volumes due to front-loading are putting some strain on the US intermodal system. ITS Logistics warns of a sharp slump in volumes next month and possibly into June. The paralysis won't be limited to imports from China. The changes are expected to cause significant disruptions. The Loadstar

BACKHAUL BLUES AND A GRADUAL DECLINE IN LINER SCHEDULE RELIABILITY

Liner schedule reliability data shows the Gemini Cooperation achieving the highest on-time vessel arrival performance, although it is beginning to trend downwards. Gemini partners Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd hit an on-time arrival rate of 86% for the first quarter. The Premier Alliance came in second with a 31% on-time arrival average. Maersk's ships achieved an 84% on-time arrival, while Hapag's hit 90%. However, reliability by all carriers and VSAs declined during Q1 and continued into Q2. The Loadstar

TEMPORARY TARIFF RELEIF BRINGS ON EARLY TRANSPACIFIC PEAK SEASON

TThe container peak season on the transpacific trade could start as early as today due to President Trump's latest tariff rollback for electronic consumer goods. Analysts at Sea-Intelligence predict an early peak season. US importers are fast-tracking volume to get their peak season goods through customs before the 9 July deadline. European exports to the US are subject to a blanket 10% tariff. MSC, Hapag-Lloyd, and CMA CGM have announced new peak season surcharges Annual contracts on the transpacific are expected to be affected. The Loadstar

ASIAN EXPORTERS SCRAMBLE FOR SHIPS AND BOXES TO BEAT 90-DAY TARIFF PAUSE

IWith the 90-day moratorium on additional tariffs on all US imports, except those from China, Asian manufacturers are rushing to secure sufficient containers and shipping slots. Taiwanese lawmakers visited manufacturers in Taichung to discuss the tariffs. The Taiwanese government has set aside TW$ 88bn ($2.6bn) to cushion the impact. Malaysian furniture makers are also racing against time. The Loadstar

AIRFREIGHT

CHINA HALTS ORDERS OF US-MADE BOING JETS, SCRAPPING DEALS WORTH BILLIONS

China has reportedly ordered its airlines to pause all incoming deliveries of American-made Boeing aircraft in response to Donald Trump's 145 per cent tariffs on Chinese goods. The three main Chinese airlines were expected to take delivery of 179 Boeing planes between now and 2027. President Xi Jinping says there are no winners in a tariff war. International aviation consultant Neil Hansford said China would be the biggest loser from this latest trade spat. The upheaval meant Boeing could focus on sending planes elsewhere. ABC News

AIR CARGO "NEEDS SAFETY AND SUSTAINABILITY"

Brendan Sullivan, IATA global head of cargo, emphasized the importance of air cargo at the 18th World Cargo Symposium in Dubai. He called for enhanced safety measures for lithium batteries, coordinated security efforts, and greater digitalization. Sullivan also highlighted the need for sustainability in operations and the role of air cargo in supporting global trade amid tensions. Governments and industry must collaborate to meet customer expectations and navigate complexities. The DCN

AIR CARGO WATCHES AND WAITS AS TRADE CHAOS CREATES 'SLOWBALISATION'.

Air cargo is facing uncertainty due to new US tariffs and geopolitical risks. Growth projections for 2025 are down compared to 2024. Despite this, industry experts believe global trade will adapt. Some predict a shift towards emergent markets, while others see potential for automation. The general consensus is that international trade will find its way, even if there is a slowdown. The US's tariff regime is seen as a negotiation tactic. The Loadstar

IATA MAINTAINS POSITIVE CARGO OUTLOOK

IATA maintains a positive air cargo forecast despite emerging tariff wars. The US accounts for only 13% of global imports, and redirected trade flows could create new markets. IATA expects 72.5 million tonnes of freight to be handled by air in 2025. Growth in global cargo tonne-kilometres (CTKs) is expected to be 6%. Risks to air cargo growth include geopolitical tensions and a global trade war. Air Cargo News