

MPW SUPPLY CHAIN - INDUSTRY UPDATE - 11TH JUNE 2025

OCEANFREIGHT | AIRFREIGHT | LOCAL TRANSPORT |
WAREHOUSING/3PL | COURIER |

AUSTRALIA & NZ NEWS

NANCY BIRD WALTON AIRPORT OFFICIALLY UNVEILED

The Western Sydney International Airport (Nancy-Bird Walton) is officially complete, with the terminal unveiled. The design reflects the Greater Blue Mountains Area and First Nations culture. The terminal features a climate-responsive façade and solar panels for energy efficiency. The airport is set to open in late 2026, supporting thousands of jobs and creating significant economic opportunities for Greater Sydney. [The DCN](#)

INDUSTRY BODY CALLS FOR PRODUCTIVITY AND WORKFORCE REFORM

The Australian Logistics Council (ALC) has called for urgent reforms to the logistics network in Australia. They recommend establishing a national supply chain resilience framework, developing decarbonisation strategies, harmonising emissions reporting, and fast-tracking clean energy infrastructure. The ALC emphasizes the need for modernizing freight movement to future-proof the economy and meet growing consumer demands. Their policy blueprint aims to drive national productivity, decarbonisation, and supply chain security. [The DCN](#)

SADNESS AS PROMINENT TRANSPORT OPERATOR CLOSES

Don Watson Transport, a prominent Victorian trucking business, is ceasing operations due to difficult economic conditions. Employees will receive their entitlements in full. The Victorian Transport Association expressed sadness over the closure, highlighting the company's positive contributions to the industry. Founded in the late 1940s, the business evolved under the leadership of Don Watson and later his family, expanding into new markets and launching a refrigerated division. [The DCN](#)

SUPPLY CHAIN NEWS

HIGH-TECH KEEPS FLYING, BUT TARIFFS ARE DRIVING SHIPPER PRODUCTION OUT OF CHINA

The US tariff policy on steel and aluminium has forced laptop manufacturers and retailers to adapt their supply chains. Exports of laptops from China to the US have significantly decreased, while exports to the EU and the rest of the world have increased. Companies like HP and Lenovo are diversifying production to countries like Vietnam, Thailand, India, Mexico, and the US. The tariffs have also impacted the US consumer market and air freight capacities. [The Loadstar](#)

DOES SIZE REALLY MATTER ON THE MERRY-GO-ROUND THAT IS FORWARDING?

The Transport Logistic event in Munich highlighted the importance of size in the forwarding industry. DB Schenker's takeover by DSV and the emergence of Rhenus as a competitor were key topics. The event showcased forwarders' technology and marketing efforts, with significant spending on exhibition stands. The industry is wealthy, with high costs for exhibiting. The event attracted 2,670 exhibitors and 77,000 visitors, generating substantial revenue. [The Loadstar](#)

US AND CHINA AGREE ON FRAMEWORK TO RESOLVE TRADE DISPUTES

The US and China have agreed on a framework to resolve their trade disputes. This agreement follows two days of talks in London and builds on negotiations in Geneva last month. The framework aims to ease bilateral retaliatory tariffs and address issues like advanced semiconductors and rare earth minerals. Both sides are working towards implementing the consensus reached between their leaders. [ABC News Australia](#)

FOUR CREW MEMBERS STILL MISSING AS WAN HAI 503 CONTINUES TO BURN

The Singapore-flagged Wan Hai 503 box ship continues to burn off the coast of Kerala, India, raising environmental concerns. Four crew members are missing, and five of the 18 rescued have serious injuries. The fire started after explosions on the ship, which was carrying 650 containers, including 157 with dangerous goods. Misdeclaration of dangerous cargo is suspected to be a factor. The incident highlights the growing number of ship fires and the challenges in ensuring accurate shipment data. [The Loadstar](#)

CMA CGM 'TESTING THE WATER' OF THE SUEZ CANAL FOR MORE SERVICES

CMA CGM is exploring the Suez Canal for potential increased usage, starting with the CMA CGM Aquila transiting on June 16. This move is part of a phased approach, with initial trials followed by potential service shifts and full network integration if successful. The Suez Canal Authority is offering incentives to attract carriers back. However, concerns about stability and congestion remain, with gradual reintroduction being crucial to avoid supply chain disruptions. [The Loadstar](#)

TRANSPACIFIC RATES EASE AS CAPACITY BOOST PROVES TOO MUCH FOR TRADES TO DIGEST

Transpacific rates for US West Coast-bound cargo are showing signs of correction due to capacity additions. Rates soared after a three-month grace period in the US-China tariff war, leading to a rush in capacity additions. However, the 22% increase in capacity to the west coast has proved too high for the market to digest. Rate cuts from smaller carriers quickly spread to larger carriers as cargo bookings turned out weaker than anticipated. [The Loadstar](#)

CREW FORCED TO ABANDON SHIP IN LATEST FIRE ON VESSEL CARRYING EVs

A fire broke out on the car-carrier Morning Midas off the Alaskan coast, forcing 22 crew members to abandon ship. The vessel, carrying 3,000 vehicles including 751 EVs, was en route from China to Mexico. Despite emergency firefighting procedures, the fire couldn't be controlled, and the crew was evacuated. This incident highlights the growing risk of fires on car-carriers transporting EVs, with 10 such incidents in the past decade. [The Loadstar](#)

AIR CARGO 'PIGGYBACKS GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY' SAYS XENETA

The latest air cargo market update from Xeneta for May 2025 reveals a 6% year-on-year rise in global air cargo volumes, despite a 4% decline in spot rates to \$2.44 per kg. The US-China tariff truce and reduced tariffs have not reversed the softening rates. Jet fuel costs dropped nearly 20%, contributing to the rate decline. Xeneta's Chief Airfreight Officer, Niall van de Wouw, warns of potential further downward pressure. [The DCN](#)

TRANSPACIFIC WIDEBODY FREIGHTER CAPACITY SETTLES AFTER MARKET VOLATILITY

Widebody freighter capacity on the transpacific trade lane has stabilized after recent volatility due to US tariff changes. Weekly capacity peaked at 75,000 tonnes in late March, dropped to 51,000 tonnes in early May, and settled around 63,000 tonnes by early June. The Asia to Europe trade saw a 7.7% increase in capacity, while the transatlantic trade experienced a 15% reduction. [Air Cargo News](#)

AIR CARGO DODGES TRADE WOES IN MAY BUT THE OUTLOOK REMAINS DIFFICULT

Air cargo demand increased by 6% year-on-year in May, despite trade volatility and economic uncertainty. The US and China cancelled their tariff war for 90 days, leading to a surge in emergency shipments. However, average global airfreight rates fell by 4% compared to last year, likely due to lower fuel prices and market sentiment. The outlook remains challenging, with concerns over future stability in international trade. Spot rates from China to the US increased by 14%. [Air Cargo News](#)

TAC OUTLINES A VOLATILE MONTH FOR AIRFREIGHT RATES IN MAY

The latest market report from TAC Index reveals that air cargo rates remained firm in May despite trade disruptions causing volatility. The global Baltic Air Freight Index rose 1.2% compared to April but was 5.4% lower than a year ago. Tariffs on e-commerce goods were lowered, and jet fuel prices dropped by 18% year-on-year. Rates on the busiest lanes out of China eased slightly, while spot rates from Hong Kong rose towards the end of the month. [Air Cargo News](#)