

MPW SUPPLY CHAIN - INDUSTRY UPDATE - 25TH JUNE 2025

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

AUSTRALIA & NZ NEWS

STRAIGHT OF HORMUZ TENSIONS RAISE QUESTIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN FUEL SUPPLY

The conflict in the Middle East has raised concerns about the potential closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical oil shipping route. Although Australia sources most of its oil from Asia, global fuel prices could rise, impacting the domestic economy. Experts emphasize the need for Australia to enhance supply chain resilience and fuel security. The situation underscores the urgency of shifting to electrified transport to reduce dependence on volatile global oil prices. [The DCN](#)

NEA, SEA RATES PUSH CONTINUES

Leading carriers are set to increase rates in the Asia-Australia trades starting 1 July. The Shanghai-Sydney SCFI has fluctuated around USD 1,500/FEU recently. Several services face voyage blankings and schedule adjustments. COSCO, ZIM, MSC, and ANL will implement rate restorations of USD 300/TEU and USD 600/FEU. ANL will also introduce a General Rate Increase on 23 July due to rising operational costs. [The DCN](#)

FREMANTLE PORTS SPONSORSHIP RANGES FROM RADIO TO DOLPHINS

Fremantle Ports has approved 12 community investments this quarter, including a community radio station at Victoria Quay and refurbishing a research boat for dolphin monitoring. The port partners with local groups through its Community Investment Program, supporting over 40 organizations annually. Projects include youth arts festivals, maritime history events, and educational scholarships. Fremantle Ports aims to nurture strong, vibrant communities. The next funding round closes on 30 June 2025. [The DCN](#)

SUPPLY CHAIN NEWS

AI IN LOGISTICS: YOUR JOB'S SAFE - IT'S THE 'NEXT-GEN' SKILLED WORKFORCE

AI is revolutionizing logistics by enhancing efficiency without reducing jobs. Companies like Flexport and Dachser are using AI to maintain staff numbers while optimizing processes. AI addresses the shortage of skilled workers, allowing businesses to do more with the same workforce. Geodis uses AI to free managers for customer service, while Dachser focuses on customer connectivity and warehouse optimization. AI's role in predictive management is still being explored. [The Loadstar](#)

TRADELANES: OCEANIA - LIMITED CHOICE FOR EXPORTERS AS DEMAND GROWS

Exporters in Australia and New Zealand face limited ocean options due to liner consolidation, while air cargo trade with Asia grows. Maersk announced temporary adjustments to its Northern Star service between Asia and Oceania, affecting sailings in July. The changes aim to accommodate operational requirements and ensure long-term service stability. Qantas Freight sees strong demand for imports driven by e-commerce and exports to Asia, launching new direct services between Sydney and Shanghai. [The Loadstar](#)

PER-SHIPMENT CARGO INSURANCE MAY BE KEY TO SAVING FORWARDER PAY-OUTS

Forwarders should offer per-shipment cargo insurance to better understand supply chain weak links and avoid blame for damages. Breeze's co-founders emphasize that this insurance helps identify the root cause of damage and improve risk assessment. Most claims involve road freight, with damages often occurring during transitions from air or sea to lorry. Theft and humidity-related damage are also common issues. [The Loadstar](#)

TRANSPACIFIC PEAK SEASON MAY ALREADY BE OVER, AS US INVENTORIES DECLINE

The early peak season for container shipping may have ended, as US inventories decline. The Shanghai Containerised Freight Index (SCFI) showed a significant drop in rates, with the Shanghai-US west coast rate losing 33% from the previous week, marking the largest fortnightly loss since 2009. Rates for the US east coast trades also dropped 21% week on week. Analysts suggest the market may have already reached its peak for this year. [The Loadstar](#)

FIRE-DAMAGED MORNING MIDAS CAR CARRIER SINKS

The Morning Midas car carrier sank in the North Pacific after a fire on June 3. Damage from the fire, heavy weather, and water ingress caused it to sink on June 23, 360 nautical miles from land. The vessel, managed by Zodiac Maritime, was transporting over 3,000 vehicles, including electric and hybrid models. Despite the crew's efforts, the fire intensified, leading to their evacuation and rescue by the nearby containership COSCO Hellas. [SPLASH 247.com](#)

SHIPPERS AND CARRIERS AWAIT IRAN DECISION ON HORMUZ IN RESPONSE TO US ATTACK

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US SHIPYARD BRINGS IN HYUNDAI KNOW-HOW TO ASSIST IN BUILDING CONTAINERSHIPS

Edison Chouest Offshore (ECO) is collaborating with South Korea's HD Hyundai to construct mid-sized containerships by 2028. This partnership aligns with the Trump administration's efforts to revitalize US shipbuilding and counter China's dominance. ECO, primarily an offshore support vessel builder, will benefit from HD Hyundai's design, equipment-purchase, and technical support for LNG dual-fuel vessels. This collaboration aims to enhance US shipbuilding capabilities and reduce reliance on Chinese-built ships. [The Loadstar](#)

MORE NARROWBODIES IN AIRLINE FLEETS MAY MEAN OPPORTUNITIES FOR FREIGHTERS

Narrowbody aircraft are increasingly used in the transatlantic market, with the Airbus 321XLR leading the charge. These planes offer shorter turnarounds and lower operating costs, opening new routes. However, their cargo capacity is limited, with most A321s loading bulk cargo. Only 17% of the active A321 fleet is equipped with the LD-3 container system. The rise of narrowbodies may reduce overall capacity, potentially requiring freighters to fill the gap on second-tier gateways. [The Loadstar](#)

MIDDLE EAST AIRFREIGHT CAPACITY PLUMMETS AS CARRIERS SUSPEND SERVICES

The conflict between Israel and Iran has led to a significant drop in airfreight capacity in the Middle East. Widebody capacity in Iran and Syria has fallen by 100%, Iraq by 84%, Israel by 78%, Jordan by 43%, and Lebanon by 40%. Airlines like Lufthansa Cargo have suspended flights to Tel Aviv, Amman, Erbil, and Beirut. The closure of airspace has resulted in longer routes for some airlines, and volumes to and from the Middle East and South Asia have fallen sharply. [The Loadstar](#)

AIR INDIA REDUCES 777 AND 787 FLIGHTS

Air India is reducing flights with its Boeing 787 and 777 aircraft for extra safety checks following a tragic accident on June 12. The carrier will undertake enhanced pre-flight safety checks and is affected by Middle East airspace closures. Three routes have been suspended, and frequencies reduced on 18 others, including routes to North America, Europe, Australia, and Asia Pacific. Air India aims to restore its full schedule as soon as practicable. [Air Cargo News](#)

QATAR AIRWAYS RESUMES FLIGHTS BUT MIDDLE EAST DISRUPTION CONTINUES

Qatar Airways has resumed flights from Doha after a temporary airspace closure due to Iran's missile attacks on US bases in Qatar and Iraq. The airline warned of significant delays as operations resumed. The closure impacted around 200 flights, with many diverted to nearby airports. Emirates SkyCargo reported payload constraints due to additional fuel requirements. The ceasefire between Iran and Israel has broken down, causing ongoing disruptions and increased operational costs for airlines in the region. [Air Cargo News](#)