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## Shipowners welcome recommended port regulation in Victoria

'SAL members welcomed the draft report of the Victorian Essential Services Commission which recommended a continuation of price regulation for shipping channel services provided at the Port of Melbourne and berth services for container and motor vehicle trades' Llew Russell, CEO of Shipping Australia Ltd said today.

'The draft report was released on 1 May and the Commission recommended the continuation of the existing light-handed economic regulatory regime for these services for a further five-year period.

'SAL had argued in both its written submission and at a subsequent workshop convened by the Commission, that in these particular areas, the Port of Melbourne Corporation did have the potential to exercise substantial market power' he said.

It was noted that the Commission also recommended the lifting of pricing regulation for the regional ports of Geelong and Portland and current activities at the Port of Hastings because the potential for misuse of market power at these ports was low.

Similarly, the Commission recommended that regulation of port prices for break-bulk (excluding motor vehicles), liquid bulk and dry bulk trades for all Victorian ports covered by the regulatory regime be discontinued.

Mr Russell stated that SAL agrees with those recommendations in the draft report and will be advising the Commission accordingly.

### **For further information:**

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