



The Hon Michael McCormack MP

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Leader of The Nationals
Federal Member for Riverina

Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham MP

Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment
Senator for South Australia

The Hon Christian Porter MP

Attorney-General
Minister for Industrial Relations

MEDIA RELEASE

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SYDNEY WATERFRONT INDUSTRIAL ACTION

The Morrison-McCormack Government has urged all parties involved in Sydney's waterfront industrial dispute to work together on a quick resolution to minimise the impact on workers, freight and the nation.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack said the Government understood how frustrated Australian shippers and transport operators were with increases in stevedore fees and charges, but actions disrupting shipping operations further were not the solution.

"During this pandemic, the entire nation has seen just how much we rely on our freight industry to keep shelves stocked and our economy running and how tirelessly all operators – including shippers – have been working to make this happen," the Deputy Prime Minister said.

"Australia relies on shipping with 99 per cent of our trade moved by sea, so it is absolutely vital we see a quick resolution achieved between all parties."

Minister for Trade Simon Birmingham said the COVID-19 pandemic was already placing immense strain on global supply chains and further disruptions were the last thing our exporters needed.

"Our exporters are already having to grapple with significant pressures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and now is the worst possible time for such actions that only compound these pressures," Minister Birmingham said.

"It's hard enough for our farmers and businesses right now and the last thing they need is further uncertainty and delays in getting their product out of Australia."

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Parliament House Canberra | (02) 6277 7520 | minister.mccormack@infrastructure.gov.au
Suite 2, 11-15 Fitzmaurice Street, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650 | michael.mccormack.mp@aph.gov.au

Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations, Christian Porter said the Government encouraged all parties to follow the workplace laws and make agreements that contribute to higher productivity.

“The Government expects all parties to comply with Australian workplace laws, to bargain in good faith and make agreements that contribute to higher productivity,” the Attorney-General said.

“The independent Fair Work Commission is available to assist parties when there is a dispute during enterprise bargaining and the Government encourages parties to take advantage of this if they need to.”

Ends.

Media Contact:

Deputy Prime Minister – Dean Shachar 0418 202 860

Minister Birmingham – Benn Ayre 0428 342 325

Attorney-General – Kevin Donnellan 0408 491 956