



SIMPLIFIED TRADE SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION TASKFORCE CONSULTATION PAPER

Ports Australia is pleased that the Simplified Trade System Implementation Taskforce is setting out to deliver an improved cross-border trade environment. Industry is supportive of a system that will efficiently and effectively address key challenges and opportunities faced by cross-border trade regulation.

Ports Australia supports the development of a simplified trade system to digitalise interactions; and is appreciative of the consultation being conducted to ensure the relevancy of the system.

Government has the opportunity to enable a coordinated and standardised approach to the exchange of information within the supply chain for numerous government, supply chain and community benefits. These include but are not limited to, reduced duplication in the provision of information, increased transparency of imports and exports, increased ability to reduce risks related to imports and exports, and improved short-term responsiveness and long-term planning for regulatory and freight efficiency.

An enormous number of supply chain and government stakeholders are involved in cross-border trade and due to the diversity of supply chain partners, with highly variable systems and processes, Ports Australia perceives that an understanding of the suitability of current ideas and plans for the simplified trade system need to include direct engagement with all these entities.

This consultation paper is a positive step to enable general feedback, however, it will be necessary for the Taskforce to continue its direct engagement efforts through conducting stakeholder specific workshops and surveys, to ensure that a very concrete understanding is obtained of the variation in current systems and processes as well as feedback on plans for future modifications. Ports Australia continues to welcome the simplified trade system, and will be pleased to assist the Taskforce in engaging with the port sector as this body of work progresses.

Ports Australia is the peak industry body representing both publicly and privately owned port authorities and corporations across Australia. Ports Australia is governed by a Board of Directors comprising the Chief Executive Officers of 13 port corporations from across Australia.
