

November 16, 2022

PORTS VICTORIA MOVES TO CLEAR PORTS OF MELBOURNE AND HASTINGS OF ALL VESSELS AS A SAFETY PRECAUTION BEFORE SVITZER AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL LOCKOUT THIS FRIDAY 18th NOVEMBER.

In anticipation of Svitzer Australia's planned lockout of harbour towage employees at noon on Friday 18th November, Ports Victoria is planning for the precautionary removal of some commercial vessels from Port of Melbourne and to restrict vessels entering the Port of Hastings. This is required to ensure the safety of vessels and crews is maintained within these port waters.

Ports Victoria in conjunction with key stakeholders including Safe Transport Victoria, Fire Rescue Victoria, Port of Melbourne and Port of Hastings Corporation has assessed the loss of towage and emergency response capability provided by Svitzer's tugs.

Based on these assessments the Harbour Master for port of Melbourne will direct some commercial vessels to be removed from port of Melbourne waters. Coastal trade vessels servicing Tasmania are being considered for continuing operations with appropriate mitigations and controls.

Arrivals into port of Melbourne will be suspended from 14:00 on Thursday 16th November. The clearing of vessels from port of Melbourne waters is planned to commence at 21:00 on Thursday 16th November. The scheduling of vessel movements will be coordinated through Melbourne VTS. Vessels currently at anchor in port of Melbourne waters will also begin to be cleared from 21:00.

The Harbour Master for the port of Hastings will be directing vessels not to enter the port of Hastings waters. There are currently no vessels at berth in the Port of Hastings.

Towage services at the ports of Geelong and Portland are not impacted.

These requirements will only cease if a decision from Fair Work Commission or Svitzer as the case may be, makes it clear that towage services will be available.

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