



Inquiry into Australia's Maritime

20.01.23 Update

Dear Clients,

Finally.....some good news from the efforts put in by our members and Customs Industry Bodies over the last 2 years + (which we are corporate members of - ICBA & FTA), along with other Shipping Industry Bodies - APSA, which have been lobbying Government for some time for an Official Government Department Enquiry into the Extraordinary Monopolies & Erroneous Charges that the Import & Export Industry have been increasingly slugged with over the past 24 months +....and the fees & charges keep increasing, with new and more elaborate charges being added all the time from the shipping lines & Stevedores particularly.

I'm sure you have all seen the additional port infrastructure fees, container detention fees, slot booking fees & truck waiting time costs go through the roof over the last few years.

We have received an important notice from the International Forwarders & Customs Brokers Association of Australia (IFCBA) stating that the Federal Government has finally recognised the widespread issues experienced on a daily basis in the Australian Maritime Logistics industry.

Full the full report here - [Inquiry Report - Australia's Maritime Logistics System - Productivity Commission \(pc.gov.au\)](#).

This Report lays the issues of unjust cost increases & erroneous fees and behaviour squarely at the feet of the Stevedores (wharf/port owners) & Shipping Lines (all are foreign owned), for effectively leveraging their monopolies on key sectors of the supply chain to increase & add new fees without justification or recourse for their clients.....Importers & Exporters. And now calls for government regulation of their sectors of the industry to rain in what has now become one of the very obvious route causes for the cost of living increases facing all Australian right now.

Many of the final recommendations from the Productivity Commission's release were directly related to the IFCBA's submissions to the Productivity Commission's Report.

Although this is welcomed news for our industry, how long it will take for any of these recommendations to come to fruition, is anyone's guess.

It is, however, a step in the right direction towards more government intervention needed in the Maritime Industry.

We will keep you posted on any updates as they come to hand.

Thanks,

Auscus Team