



Level 2, 35 Spring St
Melbourne 3000, Australia
Telephone +61 3 9651 0222
 +61 1300 664 969
Facsimile +61 3 9651 3688

Notice of Inquiry Victorian Ports Regulation Review 2009

The Essential Services Commission (ESC) is commencing a review of the economic regulation of Victoria's ports. Under the *Ports Services Act 1995* (PSA), the ESC is responsible for the economic regulation of shipping channels, berth infrastructure and related services at the ports of Melbourne, Geelong, Portland and Hastings. Section 53(2) of the PSA requires the ESC to conduct a review of the regulation of prescribed services by June 2009. The Review will be undertaken in accordance with Part 5 of the *Essential Services Commission Act 2001*.

The review will address the following matters:

- whether or not prescribed services are to be subject to price regulation;
- if so, the form that price regulation should take;
- any relevant transitional issues that arise in relation to any recommended changes to the form of price regulation; and
- whether the channel access regime should be retained, and if so, whether any changes would be required to enable it to be certified as an effective state based access regime.

An Issues Paper will be released shortly for public comment, upon which submissions are invited by 11 February 2009. The Issues Paper will provide further details of the matters the ESC would like submissions to address. Further submissions will be invited with the release of the Draft Report in April 2009. A period of four weeks will be provided for these submissions. The Inquiry will be completed by the end of June 2009.

A public hearing will be held in Melbourne at the ESC's Auditorium (Level 2, 35 Spring St Melbourne) on 3 March 2009 at 10:00am. Updated information in relation to this hearing will be available on the ESC website (www.esc.vic.gov.au).

Questions about the review can be directed to Patrick Ho on 9651 3770 or Michael Cunningham on 9851 0247.