

Roma

BRITNELL MP

LIBERAL MEMBER FOR SOUTH-WEST COAST

Shadow Minister for Ports and Freight
Shadow Minister for Boating and Fishing
Shadow Minister for Child Protection

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Protesters again target critical Port infrastructure

Yesterday protesters again targeted the operations of the Port of Melbourne, costing tens of thousands in damages and productivity losses.

The protesters descended on the major intersection at Kooringa Way and Webb Dock Drive, smashing traffic lights, graffitiing shipping containers, setting rubbish alight and slashing the tyres and cutting the airlines of trucks.

The damage for replacing one truck's tyres alone is estimated to be \$30,000, on top of the cost of towing trucks away and the productivity losses due to the disruption.

Victoria Police was able to react quickly, but it is believed no charges were laid and follows another protest in January which shutdown the Port's operations, halting the movement of 50,000 shipping containers and caused significant damage to the economy.

Shadow Minister for Ports and Freight, Roma Britnell, said: "The Allan Labor Government needs to stand up to these thugs and hold them to account.

"After the Port of Melbourne was shut down during violent protests in January, we are unsure as to whether any charges laid on individuals have stuck.

"This is a concerning new trend, where protesters who claim to be peaceful instead show the intent to cause deliberate harm to property. This time by cutting the brakes of heavy vehicles – placing the lives of the drivers and other road users at risk.

"The Port of Melbourne is critical infrastructure and these ongoing disruptions are not only impacting livelihoods and the economy, but also the movement of crucial goods in and out of our state."