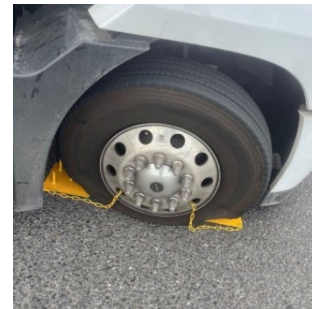
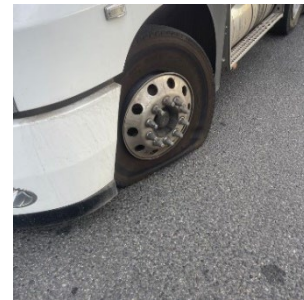


24 November 2024

## These Criminal Acts of Vandalism Must Be Stopped!



Pro-Palestinian protesters caused wilful criminal damage to trucks outside Victoria International Container Terminal (VICT) in Webb Dock, Melbourne last Thursday evening (22 November 2024).

In what is a very worrying trend, these criminals have taken to targeting trucks by cutting air lines between the prime mover and trailer sets, leading to deflated tyres and immovable combinations. Cutting the air pressure also has an impact on braking systems.

Similar "tactics" targeting trucks were first used during the infamous "Land Forces" protests in Melbourne in September 2024.

In the latest incident, protesters came armed with rubber tyres, accelerant and matches to light fires to block road access and brought sharp tools to slash truck air lines. This shows the premeditated nature of these acts with protesters coming armed to commit criminal damage.

Innocent truck drivers and transport operators, just trying to go about their lawful right to earn a living and keep Victoria's vital supply chains open, are being targeted.

CTAA Director Neil Chambers observed "If you rock up to a location armed with these tools wearing face masks and creating burning road-blocks, you aren't there to engage in peaceful and lawful protest."

“CTAA has joined the chorus led by the likes of the Victorian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (VECCI), and the Victorian State Opposition, seeking the implementation of a Protest Permit System in Victoria.”

In April 2022, the NSW Parliament passed legislation to prevent ‘illegal protesting’ on major roads, bridges, tunnels, public transport and infrastructure facilities. That legislation criminalises serious disruption caused by protesters entering, remaining on or trespassing on prescribed major bridges, tunnels and main roads. Offences carry a maximum penalty of \$22,000 or two years in gaol, or both.

“Some people would say that the “vandals” who turned out last Thursday evening at Webb Dock wouldn’t apply for a permit in the first place. But, that’s the whole point. If you don’t have a permit or breach the conditions of the permit, they can be immediately arrested, and maybe fined or be sent to goal.”

“Alternatively, if you do have a permit and criminal damage occurs, the organisers of the protest are known and may be pursued commercially for the cost of the criminal damage.”

“The Victorian Premier, Jacinta Allen, has previously ruled out introducing a permit system saying that police “already have the tools and resources they need” to deal with rallies. However, we believe that the Allen Government needs to think again.”

“The international container terminals in the Port of Melbourne, like all port facilities across Australia, are critical infrastructure. Yet, container transport operators and drivers in Victoria are feeling increasingly vulnerable to attack, criminal damage and delayed operations costing thousands of dollars in insurance claims and lost productivity.”

“A transport worker or a protester are going to get hurt, or worse, if these acts continue.”

-- ENDS --

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***About CTAA: Container Transport Alliance Australia (CTAA) is strong Alliance of leading businesses engaged in the container transport logistics industry. CTAA Alliance companies account for the majority of containerised freight handled in capital city ports in Australia.***