

“There is no way that we can predict the weather six months ahead beyond giving the seasonal average”
— [Stephen Hawking](#),

CARGO NETWORK INTERNATIONAL PTY LTD

The screws are tightening on low value imports.

On 16 February 2017, the Government introduced law to Parliament that will amend the law to extend Goods and Services Tax (GST) to low value imports of physical goods imported by consumers from 1 July 2017.

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In summary, the reforms:

- make supplies of goods valued at \$1,000 or less at the time of supply connected with Australia if the goods are, broadly, purchased by consumers and are brought to Australia with the assistance of the supplier;
- treat the operator of an electronic distribution platform as the supplier of low value goods if the goods are purchased through the platform by consumers and brought to Australia with the assistance of either the supplier or the operator;
- treat re-deliverers as the suppliers of low value goods if the goods are delivered outside Australia as part of the supply and the re-deliverer assists with their delivery into Australia as part of, broadly, a shopping or mailbox service that it provides under an arrangement with the consumer;
- allow non-resident suppliers of low value goods that are connected with Australia only because of these amendments to elect to be a limited registration entity and as such access the simplified registration and reporting system; and
- prevent double taxation by making importations of goods non-taxable importations if the supply of the goods is a taxable supply only as a result of these amendments and notice is provided in the approved form.



Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR)

The brown marmorated stink bug is not found in Australia and needs to be kept out. It has the potential to severely impact our agriculture industries. Juveniles and adults feed on, and can severely damage, fruit and vegetable crops. It is also a nuisance pest as adults enter vehicles, homes and factories in large numbers in autumn months, looking for places to shelter over winter.

Brown marmorated stink bugs can arrive in Australia on cargo and containers between September and April, coinciding with late autumn and winter in the Northern Hemisphere.

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has introduced measures to manage the risk of brown marmorated stink bugs during the high risk season for these pests.



The measures that apply to high risk sea cargo shipped from the United States will cease 1 May 2017.

Prawns

White spot disease (WSD) has been detected on prawn farms near Brisbane, South East Queensland. This disease is currently NOT in WA.

WSD is a highly contagious viral infection that affects all crustaceans.

Import requirements are now in place to prevent the disease entering WA. Imports of live or uncooked prawns, parts of prawns or polychaete worms from Queensland could pose a real risk of moving the virus to WA.

Recreational fishers should check bait for signs of WSD and NOT use food grade prawns as bait.

A widespread outbreak of WSD would have a significant impact on the Australian aquaculture industry as well as trade implications and environmental and social impacts.

In prawn farm operations **WSD can result in 100% mortality** within a few days of the onset of visible signs of the disease.

WSD could pose a serious threat to WA's freshwater and marine crustaceans in both farmed and wild fisheries including crabs, lobster and marron.

This disease does not pose a threat to human health or food safety.



NATIONAL TELEVISION AND COMPUTER RECYCLING SCHEME

The Product Stewardship (Televisions and Computers) Regulations 2011 (the Regulations) came into effect in November 2011. The Regulations support a co-regulatory recycling scheme for televisions, computers, printers and computer products.

The Regulations apply to televisions, computers, printers and computer products. Computer products include both internal parts of computers (e.g. motherboards) and peripherals (e.g. keyboards).

Schedule 1 C and D of the Regulations set out the items captured by the scheme. They are identified by the working tariff codes used by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. In order to ensure these codes continue to operate in an effective and equitable manner, from 1 July 2015, product codes for televisions will become weight-based rather than screen size-based. Some product codes will be split to reduce weight variation of products within a code, and other product codes will be added or removed to reflect changes in technology.

Thresholds apply to limit the impact of the scheme on small businesses by exempting companies that import or manufacture fewer than 15,001 computer parts or peripherals or 5,001 televisions, computers or printers.



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Townsville wins Port of the Year 2016

The Port of Townsville, Northern Australia's largest general cargo and container port, has tonight been awarded the coveted "Svitzer Australian Port or Terminal of the Year" for 2016 at the Australian Shipping & Maritime Industry Awards in Sydney.

This is the second year in a row that the Townsville Port has picked up the gong; a feat never before achieved.

Port of Townsville Limited Chief Executive Officer Raneë Crosby said that the win was a testament to the hard working staff at the Townsville Port, as well as exceptional local contractors who had worked on the infrastructure projects included in the nomination.



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