
Pricing

Monitoring of container stevedoring services

The Treasurer, the Hon. Mr Peter Costello MP, has directed the Commission to monitor the prices, costs and profits of the container stevedoring companies in the major ports of Adelaide, Brisbane, Burnie, Fremantle, Melbourne and Sydney.

The Commission will conduct the monitoring program according to its powers under the Prices Surveillance Act.

Specifically, the program is directed at monitoring the stevedoring levy. As part of the Government's reform strategy, funds were provided to ensure that all stevedoring employees made redundant as part of the reform process received full redundancy entitlements. A levy on the loading and unloading of cargo was to be applied to repay these funds. The stevedores agreed to absorb the full cost of the levy.

The monitoring program is to ensure that the costs of the stevedoring levy are fully absorbed by the industry and not passed on to the community.

The Commission will publish a monitoring report at the end of each financial year.

Photography by Ron Robertson

