

FREMANLTE PORT AUTHORITY – PROPOSED NEW RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

Singapore 05th Oct 2021

Dear Clients,

We've been providing a regular liner service between Southeast Asia and Western Australia since 2001. Our valued clients comprise of industry players covering project, breakbulk and container markets. The Port of Fremantle is one of our main ports of call in Western Australia, and it serves as the gateway for our cargoes to Cocos Keeling and Christmas Islands.

We were recently made aware that the Fremantle Port Authority is looking to change established procedures by proposing new guidelines/regulations, known as the 'Inner Harbour Scheduling, Berth Efficiency Guidelines and Rules of Engagement'. We had a chance to look at the proposed changes and are concerned about potential congestion as a result of these proposed changes.

Any vessel can be instructed to immediately vacate its berth at the sole discretion of the Port Authority. Several conditions are mentioned, but one worth highlighting here is when larger container or RoRo vessels requires to berth. The current berthing procedure of first come / first serve would no longer be applicable and these vessels will be able to circumvent the Port Authority's berthing schedule criteria, negatively affecting those vessels already at berth and those waiting at anchorage. In a sense, they will be able to 'jump the queue'.

All berth evacuation costs - pilotage, towage, mooring services and other incidental costs would be borne by the effected carrier. Fremantle Port Authority wouldn't absorb any of these costs.

Although we have already been exposed to vessel movements that resulted in delays on earlier voyages this year based on the discretion of the Port Authority, such a proposal gives reason to believe that this becomes a regular occurrence and causes unforeseen disruptions.

Should the Port Authority go ahead and implement their proposals, we expect an increase in costs that have to be passed on to our clients. Rest assured that we will continue to monitor the situation closely.

We attach herewith a draft of the proposal.

Best Regards,



ASC Liner Services Pte Ltd

Lars Vetterlein

Liner Manager