The Cargo Desk Daily Freight Brief

Australian freight & logistics market update - 2026-05-06

5/10

AUSTRALIA SHIPPING RISK

Elevated (down vs yesterday)

Risk 5.0/10: Australian port congestion has eased; Melbourne remains the main local watch point; FBX refreshed while WCI, SCFI and diesel await clean source refresh.

Executive Summary

Australia's composite shipping risk has moved down to 5.0/10. GoComet port readings show most Australian gateways back at 0-1 day delay, with Melbourne the exception at 3 days. Transshipment hubs are mostly low-delay, though Jebel Ali remains a high-risk retained watch item until a fresh UAE reading is available. Freightos FBX was refreshed at US$1,932.60; WCI, SCFI and Australian diesel readings were retained from their last clean values because the local source path could not refresh them reliably. No articles or news items were generated.

Shipping Risk

The Australia Shipping Risk Score is 5.0/10, still Elevated but improving. The main drivers are route/geopolitical risk, retained Jebel Ali disruption, and normal freight-rate uncertainty. Australian port congestion is now a smaller contributor: Brisbane, Sydney, Fremantle and Adelaide are each at 1 day, Darwin is at 0 days, and Melbourne remains the key domestic exception at 3 days.

Australian Port Conditions

Current GoComet checks show Brisbane 1 day, Sydney 1 day, Melbourne 3 days, Fremantle 1 day, Adelaide 1 day and Darwin 0 days. This is a cleaner operating picture than the late-April report, with Melbourne the only tracked Australian port still carrying a moderate delay buffer.

Freight Rates

Freightos FBX was refreshed at US$1,932.60 on 6 May. Drewry WCI is retained at US$918 from 5 May pending the next clean source pull. SCFI is retained at 755 from 28 April and should be treated as aging. Australian diesel is retained at $2.29/L from 5 May because the AIP source refresh did not complete cleanly in this run.

Transshipment & Route Watch

Singapore, Port Klang and Tanjung Pelepas are each at 1 day. Busan is 1 day, with Busan New Port noted at 3 days. Colombo is 2 days. Jebel Ali remains a retained high-risk watch item at 29 days until a fresh UAE reading can be verified.

Weather & Map

BOM warning checks still show inland Queensland flood warnings and a North Tropical Coast flood watch. These are inland and regional rather than direct capital-city port closures, but they can matter for road movements, regional resupply and project freight. The map data has been refreshed to show the active inland warning set instead of stale late-April entries.

Tender Pipeline

The tenders area has been changed from articles to a procurement pipeline. Today's initial list includes the DHA Furnishings, Storage, Logistics and Associated Services EOI and the Health department HLC Supply and Logistics pre-release notice. The automation should keep adding verified large logistics, port, defence, mining, energy and infrastructure opportunities as they appear.

What to Do Today

Keep Melbourne on a 3-day planning buffer. Treat Jebel Ali cargo as unresolved until the next clean UAE congestion pull. Use the new tender pipeline as the working opportunity list rather than reading news articles. Consider WCI, SCFI and diesel values partly stale until tomorrow's automation refresh confirms the source path.

Sources

GoComet real-time port congestion pages - Freightos Baltic Index - Drewry World Container Index - Shanghai Shipping Exchange SCFI - AIP Terminal Gate Prices - Bureau of Meteorology warnings - AusTender - TenderTracker / Australian tender aggregators

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