



**Ports Australia – Centennial Conference  
Speaking Notes – Chairman – Welcoming Address  
19<sup>th</sup> October, 2016**

The Hon Luke Donnellan MP, Minister for Ports, Special Guest and industry colleagues.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Centennial Conference of Ports Australia. We have received a great response to this landmark occasion, with delegates from all parts of our country and from abroad.

This is where our predecessors first met in 1916. Since then we have established a strong legacy of collaborative endeavour to promote the ability of our ports community to operate efficiently and to grow with certainty.

This is in fact the 45<sup>th</sup> conference of Ports Australia in its various guises.

Our archives inform us that the first interstate Conference of Harbour Authorities was convened because (and I quote): “The



Melbourne Harbour Trust conceived the idea that an interchange of opinion between the several Australian Port Authorities might be of mutual help to each other”.

We have been successfully engaging in this interchange of ideas ever since and have built a culture of cooperation on matters of policy and regulation, and of sharing information to enable us to strive for leading practice in our operations, planning and governance.

To preserve this approach going forward will be vital as the ports community faces a number of contemporary risks and challenges.

In this context I note with interest that at the Second Conference of Harbour Authorities in Sydney in 1919 (the 1918 meeting not held because of the Flu epidemic) the following Resolution was passed:

“That it is necessary in the interests of Commonwealth trade that Port Authorities should make provision for the



accommodation of vessels of deepest draught by providing safe navigable depth up to 40 feet of water.”

Our ability to act in the national interest to develop and maintain our channels today represents one of those areas of high risk. Over the course of the Conference we will discuss the means by which we are endeavouring to address that risk.

One of these means is represented by our newly developed communications strategy which Minister Donnellan has kindly consented to launch today. It was generated by a conversation within Ports Australia that we should deliver regular, consistent and positive messages to our community, and through them to our decision makers, about the vital role performed by Australia’s ports.

We further agreed that we should utilise all possible channels, including modern communication platforms, to deliver those messages. In that regard I invite you to follow us on Twitter and Facebook where we are rolling out a series of good-news stories on port activities.



Welcome again delegates to our Conference. The program of our forthcoming Conference is rich in content with topical port issues and I look forward to energetic and productive dialogue on these issues over the next two days.

I would now like to introduce you to Minister Luke Donnellan. He was born in Melbourne in 1966 and attended Xavier College from 1977 to 1984.

He received a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Melbourne in 1987.

After finishing University he worked as a commercial real estate agent, financial planner, client services manager and had a short stint as a milk truck driver.

Luke was elected as the State Member of Narre Warren North in November 2002.

Luke served as Parliamentary Secretary, in Treasury and Finance from 2006 – 2007 and then Parliamentary Secretary to Premier John Brumby from 2007 – 2010.



Whilst in opposition Luke served as Shadow Minister for Roads, Child Safety and Sport and Recreation.

Luke Donnellan is now Minister for Ports as well as Minister for Roads and Road Safety in the Victorian Labour Government led by Premier Daniel Andrews.

Luke is married to Charlotte and together they have two sons. In his spare time, Luke enjoys going to the footy with his boys, running and gardening.

Minister thank you for participating in our Conference and welcome to the podium.