

Westgate Port Taranaki joins 'green' scheme

"Port Taranaki has become the first port in Australasia to join an innovative new scheme in which shippers are **financially rewarded for operating safe, clean ships**. The port joined Green Award, a Netherlands-based non-profit scheme that grants special port fee discounts to qualifying oil tankers and bulk carriers.

It is the 48th port worldwide to join the scheme as an incentive provider, and the first in New Zealand and Australia. So far, more than 200 vessels worldwide have qualified for the discounts - including two New Zealand tankers that are regular visitors to Port Taranaki.

Westgate Transport chief executive Roy Weaver said Port Taranaki would now offer a 5% discount on its marine tariff for any visiting vessel that had been audited to Green Award standard. For a tanker or bulk carrier with deadweight of 20,000 tonnes and more, this represented a saving of at least \$1500 a visit. "We're very happy to join this scheme," he said. "Port Taranaki is unique in that it has a marine park immediately offshore, and a major bathing beach within the port confines. The area is very environmentally sensitive - **we need to do everything we can to protect it.**"

Port Taranaki's decision to join Green Award was hailed by one of New Zealand's **major shipping companies**, Silver Fern Shipping. Two of the company's tankers, the Taiko and the Kakariki, carry the Green Award certification. "That's immediately put Port Taranaki right up there on the leadership map. We're delighted to hear the news," said Silver Fern general manager Frank Wall, Wellington.

Special guest at yesterday's announcement was the deputy managing director of the Green Award Foundation, Jan Fransen. He is formerly an executive of the Port of Rotterdam, where the scheme started in the early 1990s, after the port had been facing serious environmental issues. To win Green Award certification, vessels must be audited and surveyed and proved to be in good technical conditions, as well as having a well-trained crew, good ownership, and proper shore-based managerial support at their disposal. "It's something that requires a long-term vision, **but in the end you will win by it,**" Mr. Fransen told Port Taranaki executives. "You'll benefit from such things as **faster ship turnaround times** because of operational efficiencies, and you'll also **win with the public because you will be seen to be working to protect the environment.**"

Courtesy of Rob Maetzig and the Daily News

Port Taranaki is centrally located on the west coast of the North Island. It offers nine fully serviced berths for a wide variety of cargoes and vessels and provides an official maximum draught of 10 meters which may be exceeded by arrangement. In terms of freight tonnes handled, Port Taranaki is New Zealand's second largest export port and fifth largest port overall.

Port Taranaki offers a 5% discount on its marine tariff for any visiting vessel that had been audited to Green Award standard.