



MEDIA RELEASE

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ALC Welcomes BCA Report on Moving Freight Efficiently and Effectively

The Australian Logistics Council (ALC) has welcomed the Report by the Business Council of Australia, *Groundwork for Growth*, which draws attention to the costs to the community caused by inconsistency of state and territory regulations for operation of road and rail freight.

ALC is the umbrella body for Australia's Transport and Logistics (T&L) Freight Industry representing Australia's road, rail, sea and air logistics providers. The Council exists to lead improvements in the efficient delivery of Australian domestic and international logistics.

"ALC particularly welcomes the BCA recommendation for the Council of Australian Governments (CoAG) to develop a 'national freight implementation plan'", said Michael Kilgariff, CEO of the Australian Logistics Council.

"ALC is pleased to note that the Hon Anthony Albanese, Minister for Infrastructure & Transport, has already committed to developing a National Freight Network Strategy, following the National Port Strategy, a process he has said will 'get the long term planning right and not repeat the mistakes of the past'", Mr Kilgariff said.

The need for further reform has been recognised by CoAG in proposals for a seamless national economy – an outcome Prime Minister Rudd said would 'lift national productivity and allow transport operators to get products onto supermarkets shelves and our exports to market at the lowest cost'.

"A key strategic objective for ALC is to support a Single Land Transport Regulator with seamless regulatory arrangements across all transport modes", Mr Kilgariff said.

"ALC urges CoAG to continue the reform process by agreeing to a single national heavy vehicle regulator and a national rail safety regulatory system.

"As part of this national reform process, it may also be necessary to review competition policy as it applies in the transport & logistics sector, to ensure the national transport & logistics supply chain is more cohesive and seamless", Mr Kilgariff said.

The Transport and Logistics Industry is a critical part of the Australian economy, generating 14.5% of Australia's GDP and providing more than 1 million jobs across 165,000 companies. ALC estimates that every 1% increase in efficiency will save Australia around \$1.5 billion.

"Australia's freight task has more than doubled over the last 20 years and is expected to almost double again by 2020", said Mr Kilgariff.

"The necessity to drive efficiencies in the transport & logistics supply chain becomes critically imperative given recent Treasury estimates that Australia's population will increase to 35 million by 2050.

"Inconsistent regulation between jurisdictions and red tape only adds considerable and unnecessary costs to Australian consumers and exports," Mr Kilgariff said.

Ends.

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