



ALC Calls on Transport Ministers to Support Heavy Vehicle National Law

The Australian Logistics Council (ALC) has written to all transport ministers to encourage them to sign off on the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Heavy Vehicle National Law, to be considered at the Australian Transport Council (ATC) meeting in Alice Springs on Friday 20 May 2011.

“This ATC meeting is an important milestone in the ongoing process to put in place a more seamless national regulatory framework for the efficient transportation of freight in Australia”, said ALC CEO, Michael Kilgariff.

“ALC fully supports the Council of Australian Governments (CoAG) plan to put in place a seamless national economy – an outcome CoAG has agreed would ‘lift national productivity and allow transport operators to get products onto supermarket shelves and our exports to market at the lowest cost’.

“This ATC meeting is a critical step towards creating a single national regulator to administer one set of heavy vehicle laws across the country and is a crucial component of ongoing reforms to Australia’s freight transport and logistics sector.

“The creation of one national heavy vehicle law will eliminate an array of cross-border inconsistencies and inefficiencies which currently add to costs, cause delays and generate industry confusion.

“The draft 2011 Regulatory Impact Statement, which was circulated with the draft Heavy Vehicle National Law, has estimated total gains of \$12.4 billion could be available if a national scheme is implemented.

“However, for the intended economic benefits to be fully realised, the national laws should be administered by a single National Heavy Vehicle Regulator which has broad powers and full responsibility for the operation of the national laws.

“ALC is very concerned that the national regulator will not succeed if a new layer of regulation is created, rather than real national laws with a national approach to compliance and enforcement.

“To that end, it is essential that all states and territories apply the Heavy Vehicle National Law that should be passed in Queensland later this year.

“This is the only way a national law can work efficiently and effectively”, said Mr Kilgariff.

Mr Kilgariff also emphasised the need for the national regulator to be provided adequate funds to enable it to undertake its task.

“ALC firmly believes that the proposed National Heavy Vehicle Regulator must receive an appropriate level of funding to ensure it is able to carry out the wide range of duties associated with its administration of the national laws.

“Providing the national regulator with insufficient funding will put at risk this historic national reform and negate the significant economic efficiencies it is intended to achieve”, Mr Kilgariff said.

The ALC letter to Anthony Albanese, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, as well as the ALC submission on the Draft Heavy Vehicle National Law are available at www://austlogistics.com.au/

Ends. 19 May 2011.

For further information contact Michael Kilgariff of ALC on 0418 627 995.

The Australian Logistics Council is the peak national body representing the major and national companies participating in the Australian freight transport and logistics supply chain.