



ALC Takes its Message of a Seamless National Economy Across the Tasman

ALC CEO Michael Kilgariff has told a gathering of leading government officials and industry representatives in New Zealand that achieving a more consistent transport regulatory framework in our two countries could have benefits for business on both sides of the Tasman.

Mr Kilgariff was speaking at the Transport New Zealand Summit and Expo where he was delivering the Keynote Australian Address – *The Road Towards a Seamless Economy – Australia's experience*.

"While our two countries differ in terms of our geography, governance structures and respective freight tasks, it doesn't lessen the need for our two countries to continue working towards more seamless regulatory arrangements in the transport sector", Mr Kilgariff said.

"It underscores why the New Zealand Minister for Transport, Steven Joyce, is a member of the Australian Transport Council and the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Transport, Martin Matthews, is a member of the Standing Committee on Transport which involves all senior national, state and territory transport bureaucrats in Australia.

"Adopting a cooperative approach to shared issues extends to industry, and I was pleased to discuss the concept of a seamless national economy with my New Zealand counterparts today", he said.

Mr Kilgariff told the audience that in a globalised market place where freight transport and logistics companies are increasingly operating internationally, not just domestically, achieving more consistent regulatory settings between countries makes good economic and business sense.

"At the last Closer Economic Relations Ministerial Forum in June 2010, ministers from both sides of the Tasman expressed a commitment to continuing down the path towards a single economic market which would have significant benefits for both countries", said Mr Kilgariff.

"For example, achieving more consistent arrangements between our two countries in areas such as 'chain of responsibility' would benefit industry by helping to improve safety, increase efficiency and encourage greater investment.

"A more consistent regulatory framework would assist those companies operating on either side of the Tasman, such as Australian companies Toll and Linfox, and New Zealand operators such as Mainfreight, who have operations in Australia and New Zealand.

"The success of these companies represents the opportunities that exist for transport and logistics providers to operate and invest on either side of the Tasman", he said.

Mr Kilgariff said the Summit highlighted the challenges faced by participants in the Australian freight transport and logistics industry are shared by our neighbours in New Zealand.

"One of the most significant challenges is ensuring appropriate planning around our ports, and avoiding urban encroachment on key freight routes which significantly impede efforts to move freight to and from our ports efficiently and safely.

"It is why the Australian Logistics Council has been so vocal during the development of the Australian Government's National Land Freight Strategy calling for better urban planning in our cities and the preservation of land so as to allow suitable nationally significant infrastructure to be identified and funded", Mr Kilgariff said.

For a copy of Mr Kilgariff's full speech, [click here](#).

Ends: 2 June 2011.

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