



Northern Sydney Freight Corridor Critical to Addressing Sydney Freight Task

The Australian Logistics Council (ALC) has welcomed a \$1 billion investment in the Northern Sydney Freight Corridor announced today by Infrastructure Minister Anthony Albanese and NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell, saying the project will help to address Sydney's freight task.

"ALC congratulates the Federal and NSW Governments on reaching an agreement to invest \$1.1 billion in the Northern Sydney Freight Corridor which will enable freight to move more efficiently along this key freight route," said Michael Kilgariff, ALC Managing Director.

"The Northern Sydney Freight Corridor will complement the Southern Sydney Freight Line – both of which are important projects to improve the efficiency of freight movements into and out of the city.

"ALC has long argued for more targeted road and rail investment in the critical Sydney to Newcastle freight route to increase capacity in the region and to tackle growing congestion.

"This congestion not only causes delays which restrict economic activity, it also has a range of environmental and social spin offs, particularly for people living in in metropolitan Sydney.

"The decision to construct additional sections of track, as well as new passing lanes and underpasses is a welcome step that will help the freight and logistics industry to meet rising demand in this fast growing region.

"This growth was highlighted in a recent Access Economics Report, which found that by 2020 the NSW economy will have grown by 30 percent, and its population will have reached 8 million people.

"When you combine these projections with the Government's own forecasts that show the freight task is going to double by 2030 and almost triple by 2050, it is clear that action is needed now," he said.

Mr Kilgariff said today's decision showed a welcome reversal in the trend where freight is treated as the 'poor cousin' when it comes to infrastructure planning.

"Neglecting the needs of freight in the planning process can lead to it being locked out in some sectors which adds to the cost of moving goods – a cost that ultimately flows on to consumers.

"This is particularly the case in Sydney, where passenger services are given priority over freight services.

"In that regard, I welcome the 20-year Memorandum of Understanding which guarantees freight trains better access to the corridor.

"It's an important step that will help unlock future productivity gains in the ever expanding eastern seaboard," he said.

ENDS

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