



Tim Fischer Joins Leading Industry and Government Speakers at ALC Forum 2012

Former Deputy Prime Minister, Australian Ambassador to the Holy See, and unabashed train enthusiast the Hon Tim Fischer is the latest speaker to join an already impressive list of industry and government presenters at the Australian Logistics Council Forum at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth from 28-30 March 2012.

Mr Fischer, author of the best-selling book *Trains Unlimited*, is the special guest speaker at the ALC Annual Dinner linked with the Forum, and will talk on the topic '*Lobbying Hard for Holistic Logistics!*'

The Australian Logistics Council Forum 2012 will focus on *Positioning Australia in the Global Supply Chain* while continuing to address the large and growing national freight task, with senior industry insiders and government decision makers set to interact and discuss the key issues affecting Australia's freight logistics industry.

Come Australia Day 2012, Tim Fischer will have returned from three years in Europe and will be an ex Ambassador and this will be one of his first speaking engagements.

"As I said at the 2020 summit in 2008, having even one road train trailer de hooked on a lonely state border such as NT / WA, due a lack of regulation harmonisation is one too many," Mr Fischer said.

"Likewise having any objective of less than 50% use of rail for containers into the capital city ports is curious to say the least in this age of computers and improved rail links, but more on this when I am ex DFAT!

"In an international marketplace where supply chains span many continents, it is imperative that Australia's freight logistics industry takes an increasingly global perspective to complement their domestic outlook.

"The ALC Forum provides an invaluable opportunity for members of Australia's logistics industry to come together to discuss ways to strengthen our position in the global supply chain.

"I look forward to discussing this topic next year, and also sharing with them my insights on the European intermodal freight system which I believe has many lessons for the local Australian industry," Mr Fischer said.

ALC Managing Director, Michael Kilgariff, said the Forum provides industry with an ideal opportunity to discuss the big issues facing the freight logistics industry, with senior industry figures from both Australia and overseas set to debate the key issues.

"The foundation of a truly international marketplace is a strong and efficient global supply chain that supports and enhances global economic growth, while the emergence of new centres of economic power right on our doorstep has added a new dimension to the way we do business," said Mr Kilgariff.

"What sets this conference apart from other industry gatherings is the interactive nature of the event, with wide-ranging discussions between delegates and speakers encouraged during panel sessions.

"ALC Forum 2012 will have a wide range of high profile speakers discussing topics such as regulatory reform, investment in infrastructure, road pricing and new technologies in the sector," he said.

With estimates showing Australia's freight task is predicted to double by 2030 and triple by 2050, Mr Kilgariff said industry and government need to work closely together to generate greater efficiencies in the sector.

"Improving efficiencies in the sector by streamlining the regulatory framework and investing in infrastructure is not only critical to building a stronger economy, it will also lead to cheaper goods on supermarket shelves which benefits all Australians," he said.

Registrations for the ALC Forum 2012 are now open and a range of sponsorship packages are still available. For further information, including a list of confirmed speakers, and to register visit the Forum website www.alcforum2012.com

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Further information: Duncan Sheppard on 0412 340 934