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M E D I A R E L E A S E

Time to Maintain Momentum on National Transport Reforms

Australia's political leaders have today signed up to historic national transport reforms and the Australian Logistics Council (ALC) is urging all Governments to maintain the momentum and to see the reforms through to maximise the potential gains for the Australian economy.

"Australia's political leaders today took a significant step towards achieving a truly seamless national economy by signing up to these major national transport reforms", said Australian Logistics Council CEO Michael Kilgariff.

"COAG's decision to support national regulators for heavy vehicles, rail safety and maritime safety marks a major milestone in the long and sometimes frustrating journey to progress this long overdue microeconomic reform.

"Putting in place a national law for each of the modes, administered by a single regulator, is critical to boosting productivity, increasing efficiency and improving safety in freight transport and logistics industry.

"ALC believes they are a critical ingredient to achieving more efficient supply chains, a stronger economy and cheaper goods on supermarket shelves.

"But now, more than ever, all leaders must maintain this momentum and ensure their jurisdictions continue down the path of national regulatory reform in the transport sector.

"Today's announcement has demonstrated all government leaders are prepared to put the national interest first.

"Failure to deliver on the COAG decision will significantly hinder the economic and social benefits that will potentially flow from this major economic reform, which is estimated to be worth \$30 billion to the national economy.

"When you consider Australia's freight task is expected to double by 2030 and triple by 2050, we must do everything possible to reduce the regulatory compliance burden on freight transport and logistics operators", he said.

Mr Kilgariff also acknowledged the Federal Minister's commitment to prosecuting the case for seamless national laws for the transport sector.

"I welcome Anthony Albanese's commitment to a seamless regulatory framework for heavy vehicles, rail safety and maritime safety, and I look forward to continuing to work with him and his ministerial counterparts to do the necessary groundwork to have appropriate laws passed so the three regulators can be established," he said.

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The COAG Communique can be access at www.coag.gov.au