



Victorian and NSW Infrastructure Submissions Highlight Growing Needs of Freight

The Australian Logistics Council (ALC) has welcomed today's submission to Infrastructure Australia by the Victorian Government, as well as the NSW Government submission of 11 November, both of which recognise the need to move freight more efficiently around their cities and regions.

"Both submissions underscore the important role efficient freight infrastructure plays supporting their economies," said ALC Managing Director, Michael Kilgariff.

"Melbourne and Sydney need modern and efficient road and rail networks underpinned by 21st century technologies to meet the growing freight task.

"It is obvious however that our two largest cities simply don't have the infrastructure in place to accommodate current levels of traffic, let alone the growth which is expected over the next 20 years.

"It is pleasing therefore that both states have put forward submissions to Infrastructure Australia that contain proposals aimed at improving the efficiency of freight movements around their major cities.

"I welcome the fact that both Governments have highlighted the need to improve infrastructure links around Port of Melbourne and Port Botany, which are critical links in the freight logistics supply chain.

"Just today, the Port of Melbourne reported a monthly record trade performance of 7.8 million revenue tonnes, while according to the NSW submission, container volumes at Port Botany are expected to increase by more than 5 million containers a year by 2030, subject to an approved increase in the port's current planning limit of 3.2 million containers a year.

"So it is appropriate that both the NSW and Victorian State Governments are looking at ways to reduce congestion around these international gateways to support growing levels of freight movements", he said.

Mr Kilgariff said the call by NSW for the upgrade of the Pacific Highway to be completed by 2016 recognised its important role as a key freight route between Sydney and Brisbane, as well as the growing popularity of northern NSW as a place to live.

"Victoria's proposal to enhance the East West Link by improving connections between the Eastern Freeway to City Link and to improve road links to the Port of Melbourne, reflect the Coalition Government's commitment to growing Victoria's liveability and productivity", he said.

"ALC believes government funding should be prioritised towards nationally significant projects, with funding being provided to projects which have a clear national supply chain impact.

"ALC looks forward to Infrastructure Australia carefully scrutinising the submissions' proposals, including undertaking further cost benefit work, to assess their merits and to examine their potential returns to the national economy.

"We will then be in a better position to assess which of these proposals warrant further financial support from the Federal Government as nationally significant infrastructure."

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