

MEDIA RELEASE

Cabinet Reshuffle Reconfirms Focus On Freight and Supply Chains

The [Australian Logistics Council](#) (ALC) has thanked outgoing Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Darren Chester for his dedicated service in the portfolio, and welcomes the appointments of Barnaby Joyce as Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and Paul Fletcher as Minister for Urban Infrastructure and Cities.

“The ministerial reshuffle announced by the Prime Minister today will mean the freight logistics industry’s priorities will remain well-represented at the highest levels of Government,” said ALC Managing Director, Michael Kilgariff.

“ALC is an industry leader on freight and supply chain policy and always seeks to have a cooperative and productive relationship with the key ministers in portfolio areas that impact our industry.”

“ALC looks forward to working closely with the Deputy Prime Minister and incoming Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP. The Deputy Prime Minister’s personal commitment to Inland Rail is well known throughout the freight logistics industry, as is his passionate interest in developing transport infrastructure to support national supply chain efficiency and build Australia’s export capacity.”

“ALC will work closely and cooperatively with the new Minister and his team to build on progress to date, and ensure the [National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy](#) to be released in 2018 effectively addresses those industry priorities set out in [Freight Doesn’t Vote](#), the ALC submission to the Inquiry into National Freight and Supply Chain Priorities.”

“ALC also welcomes the expansion of responsibilities given to the Minister for Urban Infrastructure and Cities, the Hon. Paul Fletcher MP. He has been instrumental in progressing the Western Sydney Airport and road pricing reform, culminating in his announcement last week of a [National Heavy Vehicle Charging Pilot](#) set to roll out in 2018.”

“The additional responsibilities given to Minister Fletcher will be very positive for the freight logistics sector, as we seek to develop cities which are more freight-friendly. His understanding of our industry will be of great assistance in developing a more consistent national approach to issues such as urban planning and corridor protection.”

“ALC takes this opportunity to express our enormous gratitude to the outgoing Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Hon. Darren Chester MP. In particular, his support for ALC and our advocacy on developing a National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy was central to getting this signature initiative onto the Government’s agenda.”

“We particularly salute Minister Chester’s commitment to Inland Rail, which after decades of discussion, was supported in this year’s Federal Budget with an investment of \$8.4 billion. That certainty has finally allowed this transformative project to get underway.”

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