

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **New Minister Comes To Portfolio At Critical Moment**

The [Australian Logistics Council](#) (ALC) says it is pleased that the new Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Michael McCormack MP, will also assume the role of Minister for Infrastructure and Transport.

“It is pleasing that the second most senior figure in the Government will retain portfolio responsibility for this crucial area, given the importance of developing transport infrastructure to support national supply chain efficiency and build Australia’s export capacity,” said ALC Managing Director, Michael Kilgariff.

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

“ALC also acknowledges the personal commitment shown by the former Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP, in bringing the Inland Rail project to fruition.”

“Minister McCormack comes to the portfolio at a critical juncture. After decades of discussion, work on the Inland Rail project is now finally underway, thanks to the investment of \$8.4 billion in last year’s Federal Budget. It is vitally important that momentum is not lost in delivering this transformative project.”

“We similarly look forward to working with the new Minister to ensure that 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,” Mr Kilgariff said.

“These issues will also be a central focus throughout [ALC Forum 2018](#), which will be held at Royal Randwick in Sydney from 6-8 March.”

“The National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy is not just an industry blueprint, but a significant national economic initiative. It is imperative that we take action now to get the policy settings right, so we can meet our growing national freight task.”

“ALC will continue to vigorously advocate our industry’s priorities to the new Minister, so that all Australians can benefit from enhanced supply chain efficiency and safety,” he concluded.

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