



ALC Welcomes Coalition's Infrastructure Policy

The Australian Logistics Council (ALC), the peak representative body for the freight logistics industry, has welcomed the release today of the Coalition's Infrastructure Policy, including its commitment to strengthen the role of Infrastructure Australia.

"ALC supports the Coalition's commitment to address Infrastructure Australia's level of independence, transparency and resources," said Michael Kilgarriff, ALC Managing Director.

"ALC believes Infrastructure Australia should be the 'productivity commission' of infrastructure and play a greater role in the identification and prioritisation of major infrastructure projects.

"Enhancing the role of Infrastructure Australia is one of the key priorities identified by ALC in our 2013 Election Priorities document '[Time to Deliver](#)'.

"ALC welcomes the Coalition's commitment to boost Infrastructure Australia, including its proposal to establish a dedicated unit within IA to evaluate finance options for nationally significant infrastructure projects and to investigate new funding models.

"ALC has called for Infrastructure Australia to be provided greater capacity to facilitate enhanced private sector investment in freight logistics infrastructure, and so the proposed establishment of the Funding and Finance Advisory Unit is a positive step.

"ALC acknowledges the Coalition's commitment to undertake cost benefit analyses for all major projects exceeding \$100 million in value.

"ALC strongly believes that all major projects should undergo rigorous cost benefit analysis before receiving public funding to test whether they are in Australia's long term economic interest.

"Infrastructure funding decisions need to be based on supporting projects that achieve positive long-term economic returns, rather than projects that have political appeal but do not have a productivity or efficiency pay-off.

"ALC also notes the Opposition's Leader's desire to be known as known as an 'infrastructure prime minister'.

"Therefore, if Mr Abbott is elected Prime Minister on Saturday I encourage him and his transport minister to honour infrastructure projects designed to improve supply chain efficiency, particularly projects focussed on easing congestion around our ports.

"Road and rail projects designed to improve access to our ports, such as those linking Port Botany, are vital to our nation's productivity and I encourage the Coalition Government to recognise this if they are elected to government," he said.

Date: Thursday 5 September 2013

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