



ALC Welcomes Release of Victorian Freight and Logistics Plan

The Australian Logistics Council (ALC) has welcomed the launch today of the Victorian Freight and Logistics Plan which sets out a strategy for Victoria to deal with the expected growth in freight volumes across Victoria and nationally.

"The freight strategy estimates that the freight and logistics sector contributed between \$19 - \$23 billion, or about eight per cent of total economic activity, to Victoria's economy in 2011", said ALC Managing Director Michael Kilgariff.

"Given ALC estimates that the sector is about 14.5 per cent of the economy, that figure could be much higher.

"While the freight task nationally will almost triple by 2050, containerised imports and exports from Victoria are set to almost quadruple.

"The plan also recognises that the logistics industry is increasingly dealing with goods that have been imported, rather than manufactured locally, which is consistent with trends elsewhere in Australia.

"This reinforces that planing and corridor protection are critical and freight and supply chain efficiency is an important component of the national economic debate.

'At the national level the National Land Freight and Port strategies have been released, the Queensland Government has just closed comment on the Moving Freight strategy and the SA, TAS, WA and NT Government's are at various stages in developing their own freight strategies.

"The draft NSW Freight and Port Strategy was released nearly nine months ago and industry is eagerly anticipating the release of the final strategy", he said.

The Victorian Freight and Logistics Plan includes a renewed focus on investment in freight logistics infrastructure to improve freight productivity and supply chain efficiency said Mr Kilgariff.

"ALC notes that the Plan commits the Government to a transport network and rail link to connect the Port of Hastings to the regional and national freight network.

"While recognising that Hastings does have some issues from a land-side logistics perspective, the Government has spelt out how it intends to deal with those under the Victorian Freight and Logistics Plan

"It is therefore imperative that this strategy gives confidence to industry that, while remaining flexible, it underpins decisions across the life of many Governments.

"This includes the development of the East-West Link, a focus on short-haul rail, as well as a rail freight network development strategy.

"In line with the ALC Election Priorities document released in July - it is "Time to Deliver" to ensure Victoria retains the title of 'Australia's freight and logistics capital'.

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