



# AUSTRALIAN LOGISTICS COUNCIL

## Welcome speech for Don Telford

### Opening of the 2016 ALC Forum

**2 March 2016**

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the sixth time I have had the pleasure of speaking to you at the start of the ALC Forum.

And it will be my last.

As many of you would be aware, yesterday I stepped down as Chairman of ALC.

It has been a wonderful six years at the helm of this important organisation.

If you'll indulge me, I'd like to spend a few moments reflecting on this journey.

ALC has evolved considerably since I began in this role in 2010.

Firstly, we have grown as an organisation, both in terms of size and credibility.

Membership has expanded to the point where ALC speaks for all parts of the supply chain.

Our profile in government is the best it has ever been.

And while governments may not always agree with what we have to say, I believe that they respect our position.

They are increasingly turning to us to better understand industry's viewpoint on critical issues.

And, most importantly, we are delivering results for the logistics industry.

For example, Infrastructure Australia 15-year Infrastructure Plan, which we will discuss today, reflects much of our advocacy efforts.

ALC is firmly committed to achieving good policy outcomes, to be transparent, collaborative, and innovative, and to clearly express our views on policy across the entire industry.

These key values underpin everything that we do, and in many ways, represent what the ALC Forum is all about.

At times, we have been controversial.

But I am a firm believer in standing up and arguing in favour of well thought out and sensible policy principles.

If we don't, we become irrelevant.

Our industry is too important for this to occur.

In particular, I am proud of the ongoing evolution of the ALC Forum.

A broad discussion involving industry and government is paramount if we are to achieve our aim of improving the efficiency of our supply chains.

The more efficient we can make our supply chains, the better for the Australian economy.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my fellow board members.

Together, we have implemented some strategic initiatives to ensure ALC became an organisation that could represent the major ASX-listed and privately owned companies in the Australian logistics industry.

This substantial change could not be achieved without the strong support by the ALC board and membership, and for that, I thank you.

I would also like to thank the ALC Secretariat, and in particular, Michael Kilgariff, who has been managing director during my entire chairmanship.

Michael and team....I have admired and appreciated your professionalism and dedication.

If there ever was a team who epitomised the saying '*Punching Above their Weight,*' it is you.

Thank you and well done on another great forum.

I would now like to introduce the new chair of ALC.

Mr Ian Murray has a long and proud association with the Australian Logistics Council, having served on the board since its creation.

With his strong customer focus, he, more than anyone else, understands the critical link between the logistics industry and the broader business community.

He has a long and distinguished career in a range of industry sectors.

He spent 13 years as the Executive Director of the Australian Institute of Export, following which he created and launched the Export Council of Australia.

Ian has held senior general management positions with private sector companies including Johnson & Johnson.

Ian, I have appreciated your wise counsel and support over the past six years as my deputy chairman.

I cannot think of anyone better placed to guide ALC through the next stage of its evolution.

Ladies and gentlemen, Mr Ian Murray....