

MEDIA RELEASE

Operator Licensing Headlines ALC Safety Summit

The Opening of the [ALC Supply Chain Safety & Compliance Summit](#) today featured an international freight expert discussing the safety benefits of the UK Operator Licensing system.

There were also keynote speeches from Luke Donnellan, Victorian Minister for Roads and Road Safety and Minister for Ports, and Paul Fletcher, Federal Urban Infrastructure Minister.

James Hookham, Deputy Chief Executive of the [UK Freight Transport Association](#) (FTA), told delegates Operator Licensing is an effective way to ensure industry participants are competent to perform required tasks and could be applied successfully in Australia.

“The concept of Operator Licensing is well established in UK having been in existence for 40 years, and has proven itself to be an effective mechanism to maintain high levels of safety,” said James Hookham.

“The scheme helps to ensure licence holders are professionally competent, or that they employ someone who is professionally competent, with the rationale that only safe and reliable operators of goods vehicles are permitted to be licensed.

“It is a scheme which has worked in the UK and I believe is worthy of further consideration to assess how it can be applied in Australia,” he said.

The introduction of Operator Licensing was one of the key recommendations in ALC’s election priorities document ‘[Getting the Supply Chain Right](#)’.

“ALC’s support for Operating Licensing is based on our concerns about the capacity of some road operators to operate a business in a safe and business-like manner,” said Michael Kilgariff, ALC Managing Director.

“These failings pose dangers to all road users – a point we will be reinforcing to all transport ministers, the National Transport Commission and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator.”

Later today the Summit will focus on future amendments to Chain of Responsibility Laws, which will be to impose a duty of ‘due diligence’ on people such as directors. It will require them to ensure that all reasonably practicable steps have been taken to ensure that CoR obligations have not been breached.

A communique highlighting Summit actions and outcomes will be issued following the event.

Note: [Click here](#) for the ALC Supply Chain Safety & Compliance Summit opening video.

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