

MEDIA RELEASE

INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITY LIST REINFORCES NEED FOR SMART INVESTMENT

The [Australian Logistics Council](#) (ALC) says that the [Infrastructure Priority List](#) released by [Infrastructure Australia](#) (IA) today confirms an ongoing need for investment in freight infrastructure projects that will enhance supply chain efficiency and safety, and keep Australia internationally competitive.

“As an industry leader, ALC has always been among IA’s most enthusiastic supporters, because we have long-believed that the best way to ensure effective infrastructure investment is for an independent umpire to make evidence-based assessments of projects, which can then be used by governments to inform decision-making,” said ALC Managing Director, Michael Kilgariff.

“Such an approach makes it far more likely that infrastructure investments will be made based on the capacity of projects to contribute to long-term economic and employment growth. This has been essential in developing a more sustainable and consistent framework for determining investment priorities and taking the politics out of funding decisions.”

“Over recent years, inclusion on the Infrastructure Priority List has helped to build the case for investing in critical freight infrastructure projects which are now underway, including Western Sydney Airport, Inland Rail and the Moorebank Intermodal Terminal,” Mr Kilgariff said.

“The release of the 2018 Infrastructure Priority List comes at a crucial moment, as the Commonwealth continues to develop the [National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy](#) – an initiative which is again included as a high priority initiative on this year’s list.”

“An export-driven economy like Australia must do everything possible to eliminate capacity constraints in our freight networks if we wish to succeed in an increasingly competitive global market. Accordingly, ALC urges governments to pay particular attention to key freight-related initiatives IA has identified in this year’s list, including:

- the Sydney Gateway connecting WestConnex to Port Botany & Sydney Airport;
- the Port Botany Freight Rail Duplication to boost port efficiency;
- the Chullora Junction upgrade to enhance Sydney’s freight rail network;
- Preserving the corridor for the Western Sydney Airport fuel pipeline;
- Preserving the corridor for Western Sydney Freight Line and Intermodal Terminal access;
- Improving connection between Melbourne’s Eastern Freeway and CityLink;
- Inland Rail and a [dedicated freight rail connection to the Port of Brisbane](#); and
- Implementation of the Advanced Train Management System on the ARTC network.

“Securing investment in these priority projects will be critical in allowing Australia to meet its growing freight task, and driving economic and employment growth,” he concluded.

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