

## MEDIA RELEASE

### ALC Supply Chain Technology Summit Communique

The [Australian Logistics Council](#) has concluded the inaugural [ALC Supply Chain Technology Summit](#) by identifying a number of key industry priorities that should be pursued to more effectively use technology in supply chains to improve their efficiency and safety.

Held in Melbourne on Thursday 10 May, the Summit featured presentations by leading Australian and international technology researchers, regulatory and policy-making bodies, designers and providers of technology systems and industry participants representing all parts of the supply chain.

More than 120 Summit attendees explored a range of factors that affect the deployment of technology throughout our supply chains, including regulatory barriers and policy inconsistencies, cost issues, skills issues and shortages in the workforce and a lack of understanding about some of the opportunities that technology presents.

The focus of the conversations was to break down some of the 'myths' that persist around the application of technology in supply chains, and highlight the practical benefits that greater interface with technology can deliver for freight logistics operators and consumers alike.

The Summit revealed a clear industry consensus that data is the 'new oil', and we must make a determined effort to ensure that industry practices and regulatory settings are primed to take advantage of the opportunities technology and data offers for improved supply chain efficiency and safety performance.

The key actions which the industry will need to pursue in the years immediately ahead were identified as follows:

- **Recognising** the transformational capacity of technology to build trust in supply chains, in Australia and globally. Blockchain-based technologies can help move value back on the chain – allowing benefits to be extracted by participants, rather than intermediaries;
- **Commencing** work to develop a single data standard for use in Australia, which can be incorporated into any global standard that may be developed. This will promote certainty and interoperability across the industry;
- **Elevating** the importance of quality control for data in business operations. Technology is only effective if it can utilise quality data – and industry needs to be doing more at the operational level to ensure that accurate information is being fed into data chains;
- **Addressing** issues around interoperability of technology by not seeking to impose arbitrary barriers or regulatory requirements. The focus should be on designing new streamlined systems, rather than merely mimicking old paper-based systems in electronic form;

- **Demonstrating** the benefits of technology to smaller operators more effectively, highlighting that an upfront capital cost still results in net gains overall, thanks to business efficiency and safety improvements;
- **Understanding** that the industry is not faced with an 'either/or' choice in terms of a human or automated workforce, but must focus on the 'handover space' between automated and human tasks;
- **Equipping** the industry's workforce with the skills needed for the supply chains of the future. This means ensuring vocational education is respected as highly as tertiary qualifications, and that vocational education programs incorporate training in areas such as digital analytics and programming;
- **Promoting** the safety, efficiency and productivity benefits that can flow from connected and autonomous, as well as electric vehicles across all modes of freight transport. This includes deploying the Advanced Train Management System (ATMS) developed by the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC);
- **Working** cooperatively with governments to ensure Australia can meet its target of having an end-to-end regulatory regime in place by late 2020 permitting the operation of autonomous vehicles on Australian roads; and
- **Pursuing** enhanced supply chain visibility in Australia through the adoption of global data standards, and emphasising the value of data sharing across supply chains in order to meet the expectations of modern consumers and businesses around freight delivery.

The actions identified above will now be reflected in ALC's continuing advocacy and engagement with industry and governments on the development of the [National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy](#), leading up to its expected release in November 2018.

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