

MEDIA RELEASE

Budget Paves Way For More Effective Freight Strategy

Tonight's [Federal Budget](#) contains a number of important investments and infrastructure measures that will improve the efficiency and safety of Australia's supply chains, according to the [Australian Logistics Council \(ALC\)](#).

"ALC is pleased that many key priorities for the freight logistics industry have been addressed in this year's Budget. This is a testament to the strength of our industry's voice – and its commitment to working with governments at all levels to deliver the right outcomes for the community," said ALC CEO Kirk Coningham.

"The Budget makes a number of investments that will be welcomed by the freight logistics sector and will help boost the effectiveness of a finalised [National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy](#)."

"The importance of the Strategy to the economy has clearly been acknowledged in this Budget, with a total of \$16.5 million provided to assist its implementation."

"The ultimate success of the National Strategy will depend on our ability to monitor and measure the performance of our supply chains, so that we can make the right infrastructure investments and rectify bottlenecks in our freight network."

"The Budget has recognised this by providing \$5.2 million to allow the establishment of a freight data hub that can collect data regarding supply chain performance, and make that data available to governments, industry and investors. The Budget also invests a further \$3.3 million to undertake a freight data exchange pilot study, allowing industry to access freight data in real time."

"Enhanced freight data measures were a key priority in ALC's pre-Budget submission, and we are very pleased they have been supported tonight."

"Many of the Budget investments made in the Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) initiative have a freight focus and target areas where significant upgrades to road infrastructure are needed, including better access to ports."

"ALC particularly welcomes the ROSI investments announced for Northern Australia, which will play an increasingly important role in exports of Australian goods to growing Asian markets and boosting our international competitiveness."

"The investment of \$3 billion in the Urban Congestion Fund will be a further boost to efforts to address bottlenecks in urban road networks that cause delays to freight movement, and impose additional costs on freight operators and consumers."

"ALC welcomes the provision of \$44 million to develop business cases to prioritise upgrades in regional freight rail networks and improve the standard of connections with Inland Rail, and support for the development of Inland Rail Intermodal Terminal business cases."

“The investment of \$102 million to upgrade infrastructure at regional airports will also deliver supply chain benefits, particularly for agricultural producers looking to get their products to market more rapidly.”

“ALC notes that the proposed commencement date for the Biosecurity Imports Levy has been delayed to 1 September 2019, allowing the recently-formed Industry Steering Committee to advise on its design. ALC hopes the Government will now listen to views of industry, and ensure the Levy operates in a way that actually reflects biosecurity risks.”

“Tonight’s Budget has made a number of worthwhile investments that will enhance national supply chain efficiency and safety.”

“With a [bipartisan commitment](#) now in place to deliver the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy, the measures announced tonight will help bolster the Strategy’s effectiveness, deliver lasting benefits to Australian households and businesses and boost our international competitiveness.”

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