

MEDIA RELEASE

National Supply Chains Must Be Key Election Focus

The [Australian Logistics Council \(ALC\)](#) has welcomed today's confirmation that the federal election will be held on 18 May.

The election announcement coincided with the inaugural meeting of ALC's Northern Australia Working Group, which took place in Darwin this morning.

"It is fitting that the election announcement has come on the same day that ALC's newly-formed Northern Australia Working Group meets for the first time, because so much activity in this region underpins Australia's economic performance," said ALC CEO Kirk Coningham.

"Our Working Group brings together freight logistics companies, infrastructure owners, local and state government representatives and other key industry organisations to advocate more effectively for investment in Northern Australia's freight infrastructure, and work with policy makers to get regulatory settings right."

"ALC has formed this Working Group because we recognise that Australia's ability to take full advantage of free trade agreements recently signed with rapidly growing Asian markets rests on our ability to get our export products to market, efficiently and safely."

"It is vital to make certain that Northern Australia has the road, rail, port and air freight infrastructure necessary to get products demanded by our trading partners to their destination as quickly as possible. This is particularly important when it comes to agricultural goods and other consumables, where freshness is highly prized by overseas customers."

"Enhanced supply chain performance in Northern Australia is important for the entire nation, because freight does not stop at state borders. A key focus for the next Parliament must be to ensure greater national consistency in our approach to the movement of freight."

"In the coming days, ALC will be releasing a comprehensive statement of the freight logistics industry's policy priorities for next Parliament."

"Chief among these will be to build on the [bipartisan commitment](#) to finalise the [National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy](#), and work with state and territory governments to ensure its effective implementation, so that Australians can share in the benefits that come from improved supply chain performance – wherever they live."

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