

MEDIA RELEASE

Strategy Implementation Needs Real Details, Real Dollars, Real Deadlines

The [Australian Logistics Council](#) (ALC) has welcomed the release of the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy today, but says it will only succeed if the implementation plans due to be presented in November commit to meaningful actions, backed by new investment and real deadlines for delivery.

“The development of this Strategy has been a long-term policy objective for ALC and has been enthusiastically supported by industry participants,” said ALC CEO Kirk Coningham.

“Now it is time for all governments to match that commitment by ensuring their implementation plans clearly spell out how, when and by whom actions will be delivered, so that progress can be measured and jurisdictions can be held to account.”

“It is impossible to understate how central the successful implementation of this Strategy is to sustaining our standard of living in Australia.”

“The price we pay for consumer goods, our international competitiveness, continued growth in exports and the liveability of our communities are all inextricably linked to our ability to move freight efficiently, safely and cost effectively.”

“ALC welcomes the fact that as a result of the Strategy agreed to today, Australia now has a clear set of actions for improving supply chain efficiency which all governments nation-wide have committed to pursue.”

“We now need those same governments to follow through with concrete plans for implementation, so that the Strategy can start to deliver tangible benefits for our economy, for consumers and for communities.”

“Our industry has made a substantial contribution to the Strategy’s development, beginning with an industry-led [Inquiry](#) that comprehensively established the issues that needed to be addressed.”

“The publication of the Strategy and its associated National Action Plan today helps to build on that by committing governments to pursue a series of actions that can deliver a coordinated national approach to our freight networks.”

“ALC particularly welcomes the focus in this Strategy on the establishment of a National Freight Data Hub and the commitment to developing a set of National Planning Principles, which we have long recommended as urgent actions needed to overcome barriers to enhanced supply chain performance.”

“However, we now need the answer to the final and most critical question – how are we going to deliver the actions that Ministers have agreed to?”

“Although we note that there will be an annual update to the Transport and Infrastructure Council (TIC) on the implementation of the Strategy, in many cases the lines of accountability are still not clear when it comes to delivering on items set out in the National Action Plan.”

“Ministers have today agreed to present implementation plans for the Strategy at the next TIC meeting in November. ALC believes it is imperative that every jurisdiction submits a single implementation plan at that meeting, so that subsequent performance can be clearly assessed, and governments held to account for delivering.”

“In order for that process to deliver real outcomes, ALC is today calling on the Commonwealth and all state and territories to ensure the implementation plans they table in November:

- Set out concrete deadlines for achieving actions;
- Contain real financial commitments for investments in freight infrastructure and regulatory reform; and
- Clearly identify who is accountable for the delivery of reform (in terms of individual ministers and/or agencies)

“ALC is especially pleased that the Strategy released today commits to working with the industry throughout the implementation phase, and we look forward to continuing to engage positively with governments at all levels in that respect.”

“For the process to succeed, it is critical this industry engagement is regular, meaningful and robust, so that industry’s concerns are listened to and acted upon by governments at all levels.”

“In particular, governments must address the freight needs of our exporters, including the agriculture and resource sectors, given the centrality of these supply chains to Australia’s continued prosperity and international competitiveness.”

“From the start, ALC has said the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy must be a dynamic blueprint that allows Australia to meet a freight task that is rapidly growing and being changed by technology.”

“All jurisdictions must now work proactively to ensure the significant investment made in getting the Strategy to this point is respected by providing implementation plans that commit to concrete actions, real investment and proper lines of accountability for delivering outcomes.”

The Strategy and Action Plan will be available shortly at www.freightaustralia.gov.au

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