



ALC Congratulates new Coalition Government and Calls on it to Deliver on Five Critical Areas

The Australian Logistics Council (ALC), the peak industry body for the freight logistics industry, has challenged the new Coalition Government to deliver on five critical infrastructure projects and red-tape busting initiatives to improve productivity and efficiency in the freight logistics industry.

Speaking at the Victorian Transport and Infrastructure Summit, ALC Managing Director Michael Kilgariff congratulated incoming Prime Minister Tony Abbott and said he looked forward to working with the Coalition and its Infrastructure and Transport Minister on five critical tasks to build stronger supply chains.

“Mr Abbott’s wish to be known as the ‘infrastructure Prime Minister’ is to be commended and demonstrates his understanding of the strong link between appropriate road and rail infrastructure and improved productivity,” said Michael Kilgariff, ALC Managing Director.

“The new Coalition Government needs to hit the ground running on infrastructure, as there is much to do to provide greater certainty to industry which is needed to boost business and consumer confidence and to support greater levels of investment.

“The first critical task before the new Government is to strengthen the role of Infrastructure Australia, in particular, to ensure it has the ability to rigorously analyse proposed infrastructure projects and to facilitate greater levels of private sector investment in key road and rail projects.

“The private sector has signalled its appetite to invest more in infrastructure assets – the challenge before governments is to capitalise on this interest and to use the funds raised to invest in key infrastructure projects.

“The second critical task is to progress two major freight infrastructure projects; an inland rail line linking Brisbane Port to the Port of Melbourne and the construction of an airport at Badgery’s Creek in Sydney.

“With forecasts showing Australia’s freight task tripling by 2050, it is time to deliver on these nation building projects to ensure we are well prepared to meet future freight growth.

“The third priority of the freight logistics industry is the reduction of red tape and regulatory overlap which adds to compliance costs, restricts freight efficiency and impedes industry’s efforts to invest to improve productivity.

“At the top of the list is the proposed review of the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal which is needed to ensure there is no regulatory duplication with other pieces of legislation, such as the Heavy Vehicle National Law and OHS legislation.

“We would also like to see a review of the shipping laws which were brought in by the previous government to test whether they are impeding the efficient operation of the coastal trade.

“Fourth is delivering on a number of key infrastructure projects designed to improve freight movements in and out of our ports, including important rail projects that will link Port Botany in Sydney to the wider rail network.

“Finally, ALC calls on the new Government to continue the push towards a road-pricing scheme that collects the efficient cost of providing, maintaining and operating roads used by heavy vehicles so as to create an incentive to invest in roads.

“ALC hopes the new government will use the results of the work being undertaken as part of the Heavy Vehicle Charging and Investment Reform project to develop a price so the right truck is on the right road, while not distorting the choice of customers as to the mode of transport used to carry goods,” he said.

Date: Wednesday 11 September 2013

A copy of Mr Kilgariff’s speech is available at <http://austlogistics.com.au/media-centre/presentations/>

Further information: Duncan Sheppard on 0412 340 934