



Australian Freight Logistics Industry Backs Inland Rail

The Australian Logistics Council, the peak industry body for the Australian freight logistics industry, has given its full backing to the commitment today by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Warren Truss, that the Coalition Government will be 'fast-tracking delivery of the iconic Inland Rail project'.

"The creation of the high-level Implementation Group to be chaired by former Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson is an excellent step forward", said ALC Managing Director, Michael Kilgariff.

"There has already been substantial preliminary work undertaken on this project by the Australian Rail Track Corporation and the \$300 million previously committed by the Coalition Government will get the project back on track.

"Support for the Inland Rail was a key infrastructure priority of the ALC pre-election document **Time to Deliver** as well as in the ALC post-election policy priorities document **Stronger Supply Chains: A Stronger Australia**.

"Of critical importance to the project will be the dedicated freight line to the Port of Brisbane, linking with the mines of South East Queensland, and ultimately Port of Melbourne.

"That Port to Port connectivity is our view an essential component of this project", Mr Kilgariff said.

Mr Kilgariff said that ALC believes the Inland Rail Line is an important part of the conversation on national freight efficiency and rail investment, as the line would ultimately boost productivity and enhance efficiency on the north-south corridor.

ALC believes that it is critical the high-level Implementation Group should act to:

1. Preserve and protect the preferred alignment now so that the land will be available when the line is built.
2. Commission a follow-up study to the ARTC 2010 report on Inland Rail to further examine the Inland Rail freight line's viability.

Stronger Supply Chains: A Stronger Australia also discussed the importance of getting more freight onto rail and the importance of intermodal facilities on key freight routes.

"It is pleasing therefore that Minister Truss has recognised the importance of Port Botany rail line upgrades which are an important component of that national freight efficiency conversation", said Mr Kilgariff.

"ALC looks forward to playing a constructive role in the progress of this important nation building project.

Further information:

Duncan Sheppard ALC, Director Communications and Policy, 0412 340 934