



Speech for Don Telford, Chairman, Australian Logistics Council

Logistics Industry Parliamentary Event

24 June 2015

Good evening and welcome to our many distinguished guests, including Members of Parliament and Senators.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Australian Logistics Industry's Parliamentary Cocktail Party.

It is great to see such a wide cross section of the logistics industry here this evening.

I am also pleased to see so many of our federal politicians from both sides of parliament who have taken time out of their busy schedules to join us.

Ladies and gentlemen, as the video said, ALC is the peak industry body for the Australian logistics industry.

This includes major Australian logistics customers, providers, infrastructure owners and suppliers.

We are the leader in the national debate on critical issues affecting the logistics industry.

This includes investment in important logistics infrastructure projects.

In particular, we are committed to improving supply chain efficiency on the north south corridor along our eastern seaboard.

One of the key projects that will help support this is inland rail.

Building the inland rail line is a huge opportunity for Australia.

Rail is the dominant mode of transport on the east west corridor.

But rail can, and should, have a higher share on the north south corridor between Melbourne and Brisbane.

With Australia's freight task expected to increase dramatically over the decades to come, rail simply has to make a greater contribution.

Getting more freight on to rail will reduce pressure on our road infrastructure and improve the global competitiveness of our exporters.

Inland rail will also create new jobs, and transform our supply chains for generations to come.

Our message to government tonight is clear.

Now is the time to invest in inland rail.

We urge the government, as it considers the business case for inland rail, to not lose sight of the enormous benefits of this important logistics project.

We commend you for allocating \$300 million to make a serious start on this vital project.

We believe it is time for governments to take the next step to finish the job.

Industry is strongly behind this project, and looks forward to working with you to deliver this long awaited project.

One such company is Asciano, and it is my very great pleasure to introduce David Irwin, Director, Pacific National to say a few words about Asciano's support for inland rail.

David joined Pacific National in 2003 and in his role gains an unparalleled view of the rail issues and opportunities across the country.

David, more than anyone else, understands the economic, social and environmental benefits of this important logistics project.

Ladies and gentlemen, David Irwin....