



**Welcome Speech for Don Telford
ALC Annual Forum
19 March 2014**

Check Against Delivery

Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Australian Logistics Council, welcome to the 2014 ALC Forum.

It promises to be an exciting and thought-provoking two days of discussion and debate.

This is what the ALC Forum is all about.

I encourage you to have your say and to make your views known.

ALC is continuing the sporting theme in 2014 after the success of last year's Forum at the MCG.

Royal Randwick is truly a superb location for our annual gathering

I encourage you to take a look around at one of Australia's great sporting venues.

Since we gathered 12 months ago, the political and economic landscape has undergone some significant change.

We have, of course, a new Coalition Government.

A new Prime Minister in Tony Abbott who wants to be known as 'the infrastructure Prime Minister' and is clearly determined to invest in infrastructure projects.

This includes West Connex and the East West Link, both of which ALC firmly supports.

And a new Infrastructure Minister in Warren Truss, who has said he is committed to reducing red tape and improving the way Infrastructure Australia identifies and prioritises infrastructure projects.

We look forward to hearing from Warren Truss at the Annual Dinner tonight.

While the industry continues to experience flat and difficult economic conditions, it is encouraging that Governments are focussing more on some of the long term questions important to our industry.

These include infrastructure financing, addressing major freight bottlenecks and improving long term freight planning.

I think ALC can take at least some of the credit for these issues receiving greater prominence.

We have been hammering away at them constantly over the past 12 months.

ALC released two policy statements last year to coincide with the federal election in September.

One of these documents – ‘*Stronger Supply Chains: A Stronger Australia*’, is in your satchel and it will be covered by many of the sessions today and tomorrow.

I am pleased to say that there has been movement on many of these issues.

But ALC will continue to be vigilant to ensure good intentions and commitments are delivered on.

While there has been some progress, we are only some of the way there.

To use a relevant sporting analogy, the horses are still in the back straight and there is still some way to go before the winning post.

But it is in some ways a race that never ends – we all strive for constant improvement and a commitment by Governments to ongoing reform.

There needs to be greater focus and action by governments to put in place the policy settings to support more efficient supply chains.

This need underscores why the theme of the 2014 Forum is ***Time to Deliver***.

Industry is seeking delivery of major infrastructure projects.

Delivery on long-term freight plans.

And reforms to reduce red tape.

I’d like to spend a few moments discussing a few of the priority issues ALC will be focussing on over the coming 12 months.

The first is a nationally consistent regulatory framework for the transport industry.

There is much more to be done to ensure the full economic benefits of this reform are realised.

ALC will continue to work in this area to maximise the benefits for our industry.

Secondly, and following on from that, there is continuing work on Chain of Responsibility.

ALC is playing a lead role on behalf of industry in this process.

As part of this will work, ALC will register its Safety Codes under the Heavy Vehicle National Law.

Thirdly, work is progressing on potential reforms to heavy vehicle pricing and investment.

This is an issue that impacts on the entire supply chain.

ALC will continue to be proactive to advocate for measures that enhance productivity, efficiency and safety.

Fourth is working to achieve better urban planning to ensure government decisions take into account the needs of freight.

And finally, reducing unnecessary red tape, so we can all devote greater time and resources to improving business efficiency and safety.

Other highlights in 2014 include:

- A new ALC strategic plan to implement a 'step-change' for ALC and outlining our vision for the next 3 years and beyond
- A Parliamentary Dinner in July which will bring together leaders of our industry and key government stakeholders.
- A new report on the economic impact of the freight logistics industry, and the key sectors of the economy it supports.
- ALC's inaugural supply chain safety and compliance summit in August this year.

And now, to today.

The first panel session will focus on the perennial question in our industry, how to make rail freight work.

Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of short and long haul rail is an absolute must if the freight logistics sector is to meet rising levels of demand.

Today we will also discuss meeting the national infrastructure challenge.

This is a particularly timely topic, with the Productivity Commission last week releasing its draft report [into Public Infrastructure](#).

We are pleased the Productivity Commission has acknowledged a number of the key arguments by ALC to drive greater efficiencies across the network.

This includes recycling assets, linking revenue collection and expenditure, and ensuring funds raised 'follows the freight'.

I also note the recent announcement by the Victorian Government to review its ownership of Port of Melbourne.

This was a hot topic of debate at last year's Forum and I look forward to continuing the discussion during the afternoon session today.

To round out the day, we will discuss some of the driving forces behind the rise of e-commerce and lessons for our industry.

We will also hear from a number of CEOs and senior executives from our industry, including from Asciano, Qantas, Aurizon and Linfox.

No doubt, Sydney and more broadly New South Wales will feature heavily in our discussions over the next two days.

On this topic, there is much grist for the mill, including...

- Port Botany's new ownership arrangements
- The Moorebank Intermodal Terminal
- A second airport at Badgery's Creek
- Safety

- Inland rail
- High Productivity Vehicles

...Just to name a few.

On that note, it is my great pleasure to introduce our keynote speaker, the Hon Duncan Gay MLC to provide the opening address.

Duncan Gay will be known to all of you.

He has been the Minister for Roads and Ports in New South Wales since April 2011.

Mr Gay is the leader of the National Party in the Legislative Council, where he has been a member since 1988.

Prior to his political career he owned a small trucking company and managed his family's grazing property at Crookwell.

So he comes to the role with significant knowledge and experience in the issues facing our industry.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome to the stage Duncan Gay, NSW Minister for Roads and Ports.