



ALC Forum Throws down Policy Challenges to Government

Senior logistics leaders speaking at the 2015 ALC Forum have challenged governments to ensure their policies support, not hinder, industry efforts to improve supply chain efficiency.

‘As ALC Chairman, Don Telford said in his opening [address](#), the logistics industry is critical to every consumer and business, yet it does not get the policy attention it deserves,’ said Michael Kilgariff, ALC Managing Director.

‘The industry faces multiple threats to efficiency which must be acted upon to achieve much needed productivity improvements, which in turn is critical to boosting economic activity and reducing costs in the supply chain.

‘One of the biggest issues to emerge from the ALC Forum was the concern expressed by many senior industry leaders about possible rental increases at the Port of Melbourne.

‘Speakers from across the supply chain reinforced that significant rental increases at the Port would not only affect the efficiency of our national supply chains, it could also severely impact on the Victorian economy and its overall competitiveness.

‘ALC supports the long term lease of the Port of Melbourne, but shares the concerns expressed by many CEOs that applying such a large rental increase, particularly at this time of business volatility, would have negative consequences across the supply chain.

‘Fundamentally, industry demands and expects greater transparency and regulatory certainty in relation to the possible sale or lease of infrastructure assets, such as the Port of Melbourne.

‘Resolving this issue is not only in Victoria’s interest, it is in the national interest, and we look forward to the parties working together to ensure supply chain efficiency is not compromised as a result of any rental increase,’ he said.

The other key issue to emerge from the ALC Forum was the need to maintain momentum on the issue of road reform, particularly within the context of limited government budgets and growing fiscal pressures.

‘There is a growing recognition among all parts of the logistics supply chain that the current system is unsustainable in the longer term, and requires well thought out reform that is geared towards supporting improved freight efficiency.

‘We cannot afford to lose momentum on the need to put in place long-term sustainable reforms, and ALC will work with governments on behalf of the logistics industry to progress this issue further,’ he said.

At the Forum, Ingilby Dickson, Chair of the ALC Safety Committee was announced as an Honorary Fellow of ALC.

‘Ingilby Dickson has made an enormous contribution to ALC through his support and development of the National Logistics Safety Code,’ said ALC Chairman, Mr Don Telford.

‘He is a passionate and tireless advocate for ensuring our workplaces are safe and for companies to take their compliance responsibilities seriously, and it was my pleasure to award him an Honorary Fellowship at the ALC Annual Dinner,’ he said.

Other key Forum highlights included:

- The launch of the [Intermodal Visibility Project](#) – an initiative spearheaded by ALC and GS1 to improve the visibility of products moving along the supply chain
- An announcement that ALC is expanding its focus to foster ways to encourage more women and young people into the industry, with a ‘Women in Logistics’ summit to be held later in 2015 and a ‘Young Guns in Logistics’ conference in 2016.
- Cross-industry support for the inland rail project – an iconic infrastructure project to help Australia to deal with rising east coast freight levels in the future
- A commitment to incorporate into this year’s ALC Supply Chain Safety and Compliance Summit a series of actions captured at the Forum

Mr Kilgariff thanked all speakers appearing at the Forum, particularly federal and state ministers and shadow ministers, including

- The Hon Warren Truss MP, Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development
- The Hon Jamie Briggs MP, Assistant Minister for Infrastructure
- The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Opposition Spokesman for Infrastructure and Transport
- The Hon Luke Donnellan, Victorian Minister for Ports, Minister for Roads and Road Safety

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