

MEDIA RELEASE – 13 January 2021

Delivery Curfews Under Pressure To Be Extended Again As Pandemic Continues

The [Australian Logistics Council](#) (ALC) is working with Commonwealth, state and territory governments to make the suspension of delivery curfews permanent Australia-wide.

Following concerted efforts by ALC and others in March 2020, local jurisdiction delivery curfews were temporarily lifted to allow the 24/7 delivery of essential supplies. ALC led the discussions with governments and successfully had the curfews lifted nationally to allow freight to move freely during this period to meet extraordinary levels of consumer demand.

Now, with states reinstating border closures and inner-city lockdowns due to the latest hotspots, the need for 24/7 freight delivery is once again being called for by ALC, with the view that curfews should be removed permanently.

Research¹ commissioned in 2020 by ALC showed over 70% of respondents supported permanently removing curfews on overnight deliveries and strong majority support for the removal of other operational restrictions, including bans on heavy vehicle access along certain routes, port operations and airport noise curfews.

ALC CEO Kirk Coningham said “ALC has long advocated for the removal of such blanket restrictions, many of which date from the 1980s – an era of different considerations.

“Inflexible regulations like curfews do nothing to recognise or incentivise take-up of new and emerging vehicle technologies that can be deployed to undertake freight tasks less intrusively.

“As the Prime Minister himself noted, when the curfews were removed in March, “the sun came up the next day. It was extraordinary.”

“Clearly, greater flexibility can work, so let’s work towards a more balanced system - flexible enough to accommodate modern customer expectations and agile enough to harness advantages presented by modern vehicle technology.”

Keeping curfews off will give logistics operators and their customers a greater capacity to minimise their impact on other road users. Simply defaulting to blanket restrictions designed for a pre-pandemic world would be a retrograde policy response.

Currently curfew removals have been extended for the for most of the first quarter in all states with the exception for Victoria who have partially reinstated pre-covid curfews to state owned roads. ALC will continue to work closely with individual jurisdictions to ensure the free movement of freight during this time.

ENDS

¹ COMMUNITY ATTITUDES TO FREIGHT AND CORONAVIRUS , Newgate Pulse Issues Tracking Report, June 2020