

MEDIA RELEASE

Border Protocol Provides Certainty, Consistency for Freight

The [Australian Logistics Council](http://www.austlogistics.com.au) (ALC) says the national [protocol](#) developed by industry and governments for freight movement across state and territory borders that was agreed by National Cabinet today is a major step forward in providing the certainty and consistency the freight and logistics sector requires.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has underlined just how vital efficient, safe and resilient supply chain operations are to Australia. Yet the closure of state borders and imposition of restrictions during the pandemic has added complexity and duplication of processes associated with freight transport,” said ALC CEO Kirk Coningham.

“Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, ALC has encouraged all levels of government to recognise the essential nature of freight movement and ensure that border restrictions do not impede freight and logistics activity.”

“During the pandemic, ALC has been actively engaged with our members, regulatory authorities and allied industry groups including state and territory-based trucking organisations to build support among governments for the very practical measures contained in this protocol. We are delighted to see those efforts have culminated in this agreement today.”

“In particular, ALC has urged authorities to adopt a practical stance by facilitating the ‘waive through’ of freight vehicles at borders, providing dedicated lanes for freight vehicles at border check points and not requiring truck drivers or rail crews to quarantine or self-isolate when crossing borders if they have not developed COVID-19 symptoms.”

“ALC is pleased that these principles are all enshrined in the protocol that has been agreed to today. We also welcome the protocol’s commitment to mutual recognition of COVIDsafe workplans developed in other jurisdictions, and to standardising the duration and conditions of border permits.”

“The protocol’s explicit acknowledgement that authorities should consult with industry to understand the effect and impacts of potential changes ahead of any new directions being put place is also significant. Adherence to this commitment will be essential to avoid some of the confusion that has been witnessed throughout the pandemic, as border requirements were changed with inadequate notice to industry.”

“Obtaining agreement to this protocol has only been possible because our industry has been able to clearly and convincingly demonstrate its commitment to COVIDsafe practices to governments nation-wide.”

“ALC has been pleased to play a key role in this process. In particular, the members of our Safety Committee provided crucial support by offering compelling examples of the extensive efforts being undertaken by major freight and logistics companies to make their operations COVIDsafe.”

“This helped to provide policy-makers with confidence that our industry takes its obligations seriously and understands the importance of COVIDsafe behavior in protecting the wider community.”

“We thank the members of the National Cabinet for supporting the protocol. ALC now looks forward to engaging with governments to quickly give effect to the measures it contains.”

“We will work cooperatively with all jurisdictions as the protocol is upgraded to an enforceable code, as was agreed by the National Cabinet today. This will help to further protect our communities from COVID-19 while ensuring they continue to have reliable access to essential items.”

ENDS

Friday, 24 July 2020

Contact Simon Morgan on 0403 477 131 / simon.morgan@austlogistics.com.au