

MEDIA RELEASE

Governments Must Honour Terms of Freight Border Protocol

The [Australian Logistics Council \(ALC\)](#) says all governments need to adhere to the terms of the [Domestic Border Control Freight Movement Protocol](#) they agreed to last Friday by ensuring consistent and accessible arrangements for COVID-19 testing for freight drivers.

“It is disappointing that many of the changes to border arrangements announced over the past 24 hours have occurred without proper consultation with industry,” said ALC CEO Kirk Coningham.

“The lack of consultation directly contravenes the national protocol that all state and territories agreed to last Friday.”

The protocol explicitly says that state and territory authorities “*..should consult with other relevant governments, regulators and with industry in relation to border controls at shared borders to ensure that requirements are communicated and understood.*”

“What is occurring now is the antithesis of that provision – with changes being imposed with little to no warning, and inadequate time for industry to comply.”

“It is especially concerning that some jurisdictions have now mandated negative COVID-19 test results for drivers coming from Victoria, yet Victorian authorities are explicitly discouraging anyone who is asymptomatic from obtaining a COVID-19 test.”

“This leaves freight vehicle drivers travelling interstate from Victoria in an impossible position of being unable to comply with the requirements of one government because of the instructions given by another.”

“The protocol agreed to last Friday was intended to deliver clarity and consistency for the industry. It is time that all governments lived up to those commitments and ensure that if they are going to require COVID-19 testing, they have the resources in place that will allow it to occur.”

ENDS

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