

MEDIA RELEASE

Let Freight Get On Its Way

As several state and territory governments move to restrict cross border travel, the [Australian Logistics Council](https://www.austlogistics.com.au) (ALC) has re-enforced the essential nature of freight and supermarket resupply calling on local authorities to prioritise the movement of freight vehicles at state and territory border checkpoints.

“It is essential that border restrictions do not impact on freight. Even small delays can compound across the supply chain to prevent or significantly delay delivery,” said ALC CEO Kirk Coningham.

“Those operating freight vehicles have rigorous restrictions around the number of hours they can work. Significant delays at border check points could end up producing delays of 24-hours or more in the movement of freight.”

“It is imperative that local authorities recognise the professionalism of freight vehicle operators, who will be well versed in social distancing requirements and compliance with other measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These are trained professionals with a critical task, and we would hope local authorities will recognise them as such.”

“It is pleasing that states and territories have all recognised the essential nature of the freight task by exempting freight and logistics from border closure arrangements.

“We now need states and territories to ensure that exemption is given practical effect, and make certain freight vehicles are not delayed for lengthy periods at border check points.”

“We will be working with our members and industry to identify issues as they arise and look forward to working professionally and collegiately with local authorities to ensure we prevent the spread of COVID-19 without preventing the movement of freight.”

“ALC is also grateful for the work of the Commonwealth at the ministerial and departmental level in promoting sensible and consistent policy across the states and territories in response to the freight impacts of COVID-19. We are particularly grateful to Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport Scott Buchholz and his team for their tireless assistance.”

ENDS

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