

MEDIA RELEASE

Stimulus Package Must Be Backed By Practical Action On Curfews

The [Australian Logistics Council](#) (ALC) says that the range of economic stimulus measures announced by the Prime Minister today in response to the evolving COVID-19 situation is welcome, but must be matched by other practical actions from governments at all levels to ensure supply chains remain resilient.

“Many aspects of the Federal Government’s stimulus package today will be welcomed in the logistics sector, in particular the extension of the instant asset writeoff which can be used by businesses to modernise equipment and vehicles, delivering a range of safety and productivity benefits,” said ALC CEO Kirk Coningham.

“However, economic stimulus measures need to be matched by a commitment to additional practical actions in order to meet some of the supply chain challenges that the COVID-19 situation is presenting.”

“As ALC emphasised yesterday during a roundtable meeting with the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, Hon. Karen Andrews, one of the biggest challenges to keeping supermarkets and other retail stores stocked is the ability to physically get goods to consumers.”

“The Australian community needs reassurance about the availability of essential day-to-day items, and the best way to provide that reassurance is to make certain products are available when consumers need them.”

“Industry’s efforts to do that are being hampered by the operation of curfews on delivery vehicles imposed by local governments. These curfews prohibit deliveries between certain hours overnight and are preventing stock being available on shelves for consumers.”

“Industry needs immediate practical support to address this situation, given the extraordinary challenge being faced. Economic stimulus is important – but we also urgently need an injection of common sense around some of the planning and enforcement provisions imposed on freight movement throughout the supply chain.”

“At the very least, local, state and federal governments need to work collaboratively and quickly to suspend curfews that restrict freight movement during the continuation of COVID-19 crisis, whether that is deliveries to retail premises, to homes, or the movement of freight to and from our ports, airports and other critical freight facilities. We would also request a halt to any enforcement activity associated with these curfews.”

“Helping industry to get grocery items and other goods to consumers more quickly will send a clear signal to consumers that stock is available. This will help to discourage panic-buying and support the logistics sector’s broader efforts to enhance the resilience of Australia’s supply chains.”

ENDS

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