

ALC AUSTRALIAN LOGISTICS COUNCIL **UPDATE**

February 2025



Dr Hermione Parsons at the Melbourne Wayfinder Event

Executive Insight : February 2025

From the Desk of Dr Hermione Parsons, ALC CEO & Managing Director

February has been a fast-moving month for freight and logistics, with key policy developments, extreme weather challenges, and industry collaboration shaping the national agenda. The ALC has been actively engaged in discussions on supply chain resilience, infrastructure planning, and regulatory reforms to ensure Australia's freight networks remain efficient and future-ready.

One of the most significant developments has been the NSW Government's recognition of industrial land shortages as a critical issue. The NSW Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment is incorporating supply chain systems thinking into policy development, a welcome step that aligns with ALC's long-standing advocacy. Freight corridors must be protected as essential infrastructure, ensuring they are not compromised by urban encroachment or competing land use pressures. Industrial land planning needs to consider not just the availability of space but its connectivity to ports, intermodal hubs, and major freight networks. Last-mile logistics also remains a pressing challenge, requiring smaller parcels of industrial land (close to freight consumption) plus well-planned loading bays and appropriate curfew management to support efficient urban freight movement. The ALC welcomes this shift in approach and will continue working to ensure freight remains a central focus in planning and policy decisions.

The Queensland floods have again demonstrated the importance of a resilient freight network. ALC has been working with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and ALC members to maintain supply chain continuity in affected areas, reinforcing the critical role of freight in disaster response. These events serve as a reminder that infrastructure must be built to withstand extreme weather, with resilience planning embedded in national freight policy rather than addressed reactively during crises. Supply chain security also remains a key issue in national discussions, including through our engagement with the National Fuel Council, where energy security and freight reliability continue to intersect.

The ALC was pleased to participate in the AUSROADS Resilient Transport 2025 Conference, which provided an important platform to highlight the need for freight to be a core consideration in infrastructure planning. While road networks remain a priority, a truly resilient supply chain requires a broader focus on multimodal connectivity, including rail, ports, and urban freight infrastructure. The recognition of supply chain interdependencies is growing, but the challenge remains to ensure policy discussions translate into tangible action.

Across the industry, the pressures of rising costs and inflation continue to shape business decisions, with some companies scaling back automation investments despite long-term efficiency benefits. Energy transition and decarbonisation efforts are gaining momentum, with new investments in both gas infrastructure and clean energy manufacturing, highlighting the growing focus on supply chain sustainability. Urban freight challenges are also intensifying, reinforcing the need for integrated industrial land planning and improved last-mile logistics solutions.

As we look ahead, ALC remains committed to ensuring the needs of the freight and logistics sector are well represented in national discussions. Strong advocacy and collaboration will be essential in building a more resilient, efficient, and future-ready freight supply chains.

And we are delighted to welcome BP as the ALC's newest member.



The Australian Logistics Council invites you to express interest in the upcoming Supply Chain Summit 2025, where Australia's supply chain and logistics leaders will gather to shape the future of our industry.

The program brings together C-suite executives from Australia's leading supply chain and logistics operations for intensive strategic discussions and premium networking opportunities.

Be among the first to secure your place. Follow this [link](#) to be kept up to date and express your interest in attending.

Mark your Calendar

ALC Supply Chain Summit 2025:

21 August 2025

ALC Supply Chain Awards 2025:

21 August 2025

**ALC Executive Networking
Function:**

20 August 2025

Location:

Doltone House Hyde Park, Sydney



Trusted Information Sharing Network Townhall

The ALC team attended The Trusted Information Sharing Network first Cross-Sector Town Hall of 2025, focusing on the recent concerns surrounding DeepSeek, a Chinese-developed AI platform.

While DeepSeek offers advanced conversational capabilities, its rapid adoption has raised significant security and privacy concerns. The Australian Government has banned the app from all government devices, citing potential national security risks linked to data collection and possible oversight by foreign entities. Similar actions have been taken by other countries and leading Australian universities, further highlighting the need for vigilance when using AI platforms.

The Town Hall provided an opportunity for members to discuss these risks and explore strategies for safeguarding their sectors. We extend our thanks to all participants for their insights and contributions—conversations like these strengthen our collective understanding and help build a more secure, informed industry.



National Severe Weather Updates

Throughout February, the ALC team attended multiple National Coordination Mechanism meetings, convened to address supply chain disruptions caused by the severe weather and flooding in Queensland. Chaired by Joe Buffone, Deputy Coordinator General of the Emergency Management and Response Group, these sessions brought together Australian Government agencies, industry stakeholders, and emergency management representatives.

The meetings featured briefings from the Bureau of Meteorology, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, the Queensland Government, and industry leaders. Discussions focused on assessing current impacts, identifying critical supply chain challenges, and coordinating collaborative responses to ensure continuity of essential goods and services. The ALC team remains engaged, advocating for industry needs and contributing to solutions as the situation evolves.



NT Logistics Advisory Council

Our CEO, Dr Hermione Parsons has stepped into the role of Co-Chair of the Northern Territory Logistics Advisory Council, alongside Louise McCormick, CEO Northern Territory Department of Logistics and Infrastructure, leading the first meeting of 2025. The discussion focused on key issues impacting the region, including road maintenance and critical infrastructure needs across the NT. With strong engagement from industry leaders and stakeholders, the council continues to drive collaborative solutions for the territory's logistics network.

ALC Member Spotlight



Sandra McNeil - Amazon Australia

Sandra McNeil is the Country Director of Operations for Amazon Australia, where she leads end-to-end Supply Chain including Fulfillment & Logistics, Print on Demand, Transportation & Delivery, Reverse Logistics and Operational Excellence.

Prior to joining Amazon, Sandra spent 24 years in the automotive industry at General Motors, most notably as the Manufacturing Chief Engineer for the mid-engine Corvette and other programs across the US, Canada, Mexico, South Korea, Asia, ASEAN, Australia, Europe, Middle East, India, Egypt and South Africa. Sandra has a passion for advancing diversity in STEM and enjoys volunteering to help cultivate a diverse talent pipeline.

We are delighted to welcome Sandra to the ALC Council as our Amazon representative.

New Member to the ALC



bp ASSOCIATE MEMBER

bp has been operating in Australia for more than 100 years and is one of Australia's leading premium fuel retailers with around 1,400 branded retail fuel sites across the country, of which approximately 350 of these are owned and operated by bp, with the bulk of the remainder owned and operated by our dealer partners.

Image: bp

Policy Updates & Recent Submissions

POLICY UPDATE

Transport Security Amendment (Security of Australia's Transport Sector) Bill 2024

The Australian Logistics Council has submitted its response to the Transport Security Amendment (Security of Australia's Transport Sector) Bill 2024.

The Bill seeks to strengthen security in the aviation and maritime sectors through expanded definitions, enhanced cybersecurity obligations, and increased enforcement measures.

While the ALC supports efforts to improve national security, it emphasises the need for a balanced approach that does not impose unnecessary burdens on the supply chain sector. ALC has highlighted the following issues:

- Expanded security scope – The broadened scope of "security regulated ports" may unintentionally capture intermodal hubs and empty container parks, increasing compliance costs without clear security benefits.
- Cybersecurity compliance – Potential duplication with existing laws, such as the Security of Critical Infrastructure (SOCl) Act.
- Workforce readiness – Cybersecurity skills shortages require targeted government support.
- Operational impacts – Security testing and enforcement powers must be implemented without disrupting freight movements.

ALC has encouraged the Government to undertake further industry consultation to ensure security reforms enhance resilience without hindering operational efficiency.

Read the full Submission here in our [Knowledge Centre](#) and check our the [ATN's coverage](#) of this submission.

Want to provide thoughts or insights to our current work in progress?

Contact us at policy@austlogistics.com.au

Our Members in the News...



FedEx expands international service to Australia

.....[READ MORE](#)



Linfox transport precious cargo for Victorian zoos

....[READ MORE](#)



Team Global Express partners with Chinese logistics giant

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Origin oftake Summerfield battery storage in South Australia

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ANL and Aurizon's announce a landmark bridging initiative through Darwin

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Upcoming Events

On 5 March 2025, ALC, in partnership with the Port of Brisbane, will host an exclusive morning tea, bringing together industry leaders, government representatives, and women in supply chain. The event will highlight the importance of workforce diversity and ALC's role in driving sustainable change.



Join the conversation!

Express your interest in the 2025 ALC Supply Chain Summit now!

Alternatively, you can contact our Membership & Engagement Coordinator, Sara Ferguson.

Phone: 0458 162 196

Email: sara.ferguson@auslogistics.com.au.

Want to maximise your industry influence?

Ask about ALC membership opportunities when you register your interest for Supply Chain Summit 2025.

If you're not a member, you're missing out!

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