

ALC AUSTRALIAN LOGISTICS COUNCIL **UPDATE**

March 2025



Executive Insight: March 2025

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

This week's Federal Budget was delivered amid growing economic headwinds and global uncertainty. It is, quite clearly, a budget the Government did not expect to bring down. The \$42.1 billion deficit and a headline cash balance of \$65.2 billion reflect the challenging fiscal and geopolitical environment in which we now find ourselves.

For our sector, this Budget was largely neutral. While there were no surprises or new imposts, there were also no major initiatives targeted directly at the freight and supply chain industry. Infrastructure spending remains steady, but we note the lack of fresh investment to improve supply chain efficiency or accelerate the transition to net zero. While the Budget's focus on easing cost-of-living pressures is

understandable, it's critical to remember that resilient, efficient supply chains are essential to keeping household costs down.

At our recent ALC Council meeting, we welcomed Natalie James, Secretary of the Australian Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, and her team for a candid and constructive discussion on the ongoing workforce challenges facing the freight, logistics and transport sectors. This was an important opportunity to share industry perspectives on what is arguably the most pressing issue affecting our future resilience. Our workforce challenges are complex and systemic. The pressure on companies and Australia's end-to-end supply chain is increasing. Natalie's team also joined us for a tour of the impressive new Woolworths National Distribution Centre at Moorebank – a showcase of innovation, scale and productivity in modern supply chain operations.

At the meeting, the ALC Council also explored the strategic opportunity of a 24-hour economy, particularly in light of recent interest expressed by the NSW Government. The Council strongly supports the expansion of night-time freight operations as a way to improve productivity and alleviate congestion in our rapidly growing cities. To support this discussion, ALC developed two position papers which are now being refined following robust Council discussion. It's clear that when the industry's best minds come together, the ideas – and commitment – are both powerful and inspiring. After the meeting the ALC Council toured Moorebank Intermodal Terminal and Logistics Park which provided a valuable behind-the-scenes investigation of this important freight logistics development.

With an election on the horizon, our voice must be strong and united. Look out for ALC's Election Asks, to be released next week. Together, we will continue to champion a future-ready freight and logistics sector.

And a warm welcome, as always, to our new members. Together, we're moving from strength to strength.

Kind Regards, Hermione

Summit Theme Announced



SUPPLY CHAIN SUMMIT 2025
AUSTRALIA'S SUPPLY CHAINS UNDER PRESSURE:
SOLUTIONS FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE

The theme for the ALC Supply Chain Summit 2025 is **Australia's Supply Chains Under Pressure: Solutions for a Resilient Future.**

This year's event will focus on resilience — ensuring Australia's supply chains can withstand economic, geopolitical, environmental, and workforce challenges while maintaining efficiency, sustainability, and competitiveness.

Early Bird Tickets are LIVE!

A limited number of early bird tickets have been released for the ALC Supply Chain Summit 2025.

Don't miss your opportunity to secure a seat at this premier industry event.

[Get your tickets now!](#)

Mark your Calendar

ALC Supply Chain Summit 2025:

21 August 2025

ALC Supply Chain Awards Night 2025:

21 August 2025

ALC Supply Chain Summit 2025 Welcome Event:

20 August 2025

Location:

Doltone House Hyde Park, Sydney

Now Accepting ALC Supply Chain Summit Award Night Nominations

Nominations are now open to recognise outstanding individuals and initiatives making a significant impact in the supply chain and logistics sector. Categories to be awarded are:

- Rising Star Award
- Wayfinder Champion Award
- Innovation Award
- Environment, Social & Governance Excellence Award
- Healthy Heads in Trucks & Sheds Wellbeing Award

Partner with Us in 2025 - Become a Summit Sponsor!

Position your organisation at the forefront of Australia's supply chain and logistics industry by sponsoring the ALC Supply Chain Summit 2025. This is a unique opportunity to connect with key decision-makers, showcase your leadership, and support the advancement of the sector. A range of [sponsorship packages](#) are available to align with your strategic goals.

For more information on early bird tickets, award nominations, or sponsorship opportunities, visit the [ALC Supply Chain Summit 2025 website](#).



Supporting Industry through Cyclone Alfred

The ALC leveraged its strong government relationships to ensure the resilience of Australia's supply chains during and after Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. Through extensive coordination with the Queensland Government, New South Wales authorities, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), ALC played a central role in maintaining the movement of essential goods and supporting recovery efforts.

ALC's sustained and strong advocacy led to the Queensland Government extending the recovery response beyond the initial deadline, including lifting freight curfews and permitting 24-hour operations for critical deliveries. This was essential for allowing supply chains to recover, ensuring the timely delivery of food, medicine, and essential supplies after the immediate emergency had passed. ALC also advocated for similar flexibility in northern New South Wales, ensuring supply chain resilience across all affected regions.

Throughout the crisis, ALC coordinated with industry leaders and government agencies to address freight challenges, including road closures and infrastructure damage. We facilitated real-time updates between rail and road freight operators, supermarkets, and fuel suppliers to accelerate the restoration of supply chains. ALC also ensured that heavy vehicle operators were provided with clear guidance on navigating flood-affected areas and advocated for the minimisation of unnecessary vehicle intercepts by law enforcement to expedite recovery.

As recovery efforts continue, ALC remains actively engaged with government agencies and industry stakeholders to monitor infrastructure repairs and road access.

Looking ahead, ALC will continue to strengthen its government partnerships and work closely with industry leaders to reinforce supply chain resilience in preparation for future disruptions. Our unwavering commitment to advocating for industry needs and ensuring the continuity of operations remains at the forefront of our efforts.



ALC Board & Council Meeting March 2025

On Tuesday 18th March, the ALC Board and Council meetings were held at Primary Connect (Woolworths)

National Distribution Centre in Moorebank Logistics Park, NSW.

Thanks to the generous support of Primary Connect (Woolworths), Qube Holdings Ltd, and National Intermodal Corporation, Councillors had the opportunity to tour state-of-the-art facilities and explore the future of integrated freight and logistics.

Highlights included site visits at Primary Connect (Woolworths), and Qube IMEX and Interstate Intermodal Terminals, followed by a land use and property tour of Moorebank Logistics Park—Australia's largest freight infrastructure precinct.

The day concluded with a networking function at the William Inglis Hotel, where Councillors reflected on the day's proceedings and tours.

Feedback from attendees reinforced how valued and impactful these meetings are, with Councillors appreciating the opportunity to connect, learn, and contribute to conversations shaping the future of the industry.

ALC extends sincere thanks to all our hosts for their warm hospitality, and to our Councillors. Your ongoing engagement is what continues to make these meetings so meaningful and productive.



Wayfinder Brisbane Tour: Connecting Talent with Opportunity in Freight and Logistics

On 4 March, the Wayfinder: Supply Chain Careers for Women – Freight Heartland Brisbane Tour brought together 50 participants for a guided exploration of Brisbane's modern supply chain and logistics sector. The group included industry representatives, Government Program Coordinators, charity organisations, and women considering new career opportunities in the field.

The tour began at Primary Connect (Woolworths) Heathwood Distribution Centre, where participants gained valuable insights into the scale, coordination, and efficiency required to keep goods moving across the state. The group then visited Coca-Cola Europacific Partners in Richlands, observing the operations behind one of Australia's most recognisable beverage brands. The final stop was Coles' Redbank Automated Distribution Centre, a world-class facility showcasing the role of automation and innovation in the future of logistics.

A planned visit to the Port of Brisbane was postponed due to the emergency response to Cyclone Alfred. We extend our best wishes to all teams involved in managing the situation and look forward to including this important site in our next Brisbane tour.

We are grateful to Primary Connect (Woolworths), Coca-Cola Europacific Partners, and Coles for their generous support and for opening their facilities to our participants. Their commitment to showcasing real-world career pathways is central to advancing diversity and inclusion across the sector.

The Freight Heartland Tour continues to highlight the breadth of opportunity within the supply chain industry. We look forward to welcoming more participants on future tours as we continue to spotlight this essential and evolving field.



ALC Member Spotlight



Marika Calfas - CEO, NSW Ports

Marika Calfas is a highly respected leader in the Australian logistics and infrastructure sector. As CEO of NSW Ports, Marika oversees the management of some of the country's most important trade assets, including Port Botany and Port Kembla, as well as two Sydney intermodal terminals.

Drawing on her belief that ports are crucial to our wellbeing and essential for the nation's economy, Marika is a valued member of the ALC Council, steering discussions on national freight policy, infrastructure investment and supply chain resilience and efficiencies. Marika is also a board member of Infrastructure NSW, Director of TT Club and Deputy Chair of Ports Australia and Infrastructure Partnerships Australia.

Under her leadership, NSW Ports has developed and is implementing long-term strategies for NSW Ports' port and port supply chains and collaborates with stakeholders to enhance productivity and sustainability.

Marika is a strong advocate for sustainable and resilient supply chains and championing innovation to help meet the demands of a growing and evolving industry. She is also a passionate advocate for Wayfinder: Supply Chain Careers for Women, promoting greater diversity and inclusion in the logistics sector. Additionally, her contributions were highly rated in attendee feedback from the Sydney Tour in 2024, further demonstrating her impact on the industry.

Welcoming Our New ALC Council Members

Welcoming Mark Chapman - CEO, MTData



A Telstra Company



MTData has transitioned from Associate to Core ALC membership, strengthening its engagement in the logistics and transport sectors.

Under the leadership of CEO Mark Chapman—an experienced engineering and technology leader and newly appointed ALC Council member—MTData continues to drive innovation in telematics. The company's strategic partnerships, including AWS IoT for advanced driver monitoring and the expansion of Smart On-board Monitoring with TCA-approved integrations, are enhancing efficiency, safety, and compliance across the industry.

This transition underscores MTDData's dedication to collaboration and continuous technological advancement, shaping the future of intelligent transport solutions.

Welcoming Jade Hooper - Group Executive Development, ARTC



Jade Hooper's role is Group Executive Development at ARTC, overseeing customer partnerships, policy and regulatory planning, corporate development, and infrastructure strategy to drive business growth and ensure long-term commercial sustainability.

With more than 20 years of experience in supply chain, logistics, and operations within service-driven markets, Ms. Hooper has a proven track record in strategic planning, operational excellence, and regulatory

reform. She is committed to delivering sustainable business improvements, enhancing customer relationships, and strengthening rail's competitive positioning within Australia's freight and logistics sector.

Prior to joining ARTC, Ms. Hooper held senior leadership positions at Pacific National, where she served as Head of Commercial – Strategic Network, Access & Regulation, and at Toll Group as Global Head of Sales Operations. She also held key commercial and operational roles at Aurizon, contributing to strategic network development and performance optimisation.

Ms. Hooper is a strong advocate for rail freight and is dedicated to promoting rail's inherent advantages—cost efficiency, safety, and environmental benefits—to drive greater industry adoption and enhance Australia's transport network.

Welcoming Mal Paterson - Director Service & Branch Operations, Toyota Material Handling Australia



Mal Paterson is the Director of Service and Branch Operations at Toyota Material Handling Australia (TMHA), with extensive experience in logistics, operations, and service management. He leads TMHA's national service network, ensuring the delivery of efficient, safe, and sustainable material handling solutions that support Australia's supply chain resilience.

With a background spanning branch operations, workforce development, and safety leadership, Mal has a deep understanding of the operational efficiencies and technological advancements that drive productivity in logistics. His expertise aligns with industry priorities around enhancing supply chain safety, innovation, and sustainability, supporting the continued evolution of best-practice logistics solutions.

Mal's leadership at TMHA contributes to the broader industry focus on supply chain efficiency, infrastructure investment, and regulatory compliance, ensuring that logistics operations remain safe, productive, and future-focused.

Welcoming Nick Vrckovski - President Retail and Consumer, Toll Group



Nick is a distinguished supply chain executive with more than 25 years of experience leading supply chain management, third-party logistics, and supply chain consulting, across diverse industries, globally.

Nick joined Toll Group in September 2000, where he currently serves as the President of the Retail and Consumer division. In this role, he is responsible for spearheading key supply chain functions for major multinational customers in the retail, fashion, consumer goods, beverage, grocery, and automotive sectors.

His strategic vision and commitment to operational excellence have been instrumental in consistently delivering significant ROI, revenue, and EBIT growth in various organisations he has worked.

Nick has successfully led large teams within complex organizations through transformative change initiatives, resulting in significant business transformation and improved bottom-line performance.

Prior to being appointed to his current role, Nick held executive roles in global organisations, including DHL, Allied Express, and previous positions within Toll Group. In these roles, he successfully managed large-scale operations and led cross-functional teams to achieve strategic objectives and operational excellence.

Nick holds a Master of Business Administration, a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and Business Management and a Graduate Diploma in Supply Chain.

Welcoming Simon Sayers - National Head of Development, ESR





Simon has over 20 years' experience in management roles on large scale developments in Australia, the Middle-East, South-East Asia, and China. He returned to Australia for this role after several years in Dubai. Prior to joining ESR, Simon has previously held senior leadership roles with Gazeley (GLP) in China, and Dubai World Central, UAE. Simon holds a Bachelor of Civil Engineering (Hons) from the University of Melbourne. Simon holds overall responsibility for the development of office and industrial assets across Victoria, including the coordination of new business, land acquisitions, planning & design incorporating project management delivery functions.

Policy Updates & Recent Submissions

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***POLICY
UPDATE***

Strengthening Freight's Role in NSW Regional Transport Plans



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***POLICY
UPDATE***

Strengthening Freight's Role in NSW Regional Transport Plans



current planning

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Our Members in the News...



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ALC's New Industry Affiliate Program: Strengthening Industry's Voice

Welcoming our New Affiliates



The Australian Airports Association (AAA) represents 340+ airports, from regional airstrips to major international gateways. As the national voice for airports, AAA drives policy, fosters collaboration, and supports a safe, competitive, and sustainable aviation sector, ensuring strong connectivity and economic benefits for Australia.



Container Transport Alliance Australia (CTAA) is a strong Alliance of leading businesses engaged in the container transport logistics sector. CTAA Alliance companies account for most of the landside containerised freight handled to/from Australia's capital city ports. CTAA is dedicated to container logistics, focussing on industry advocacy, policy engagement, and operational best practices to support the efficiency and sustainability of container transport across Australia.



The International Cargo Handling Co-ordination Association (ICHCA) is an industry group focused on cargo handling practices across ports, terminals, and logistics operations. With a presence in Australia, ICHCA engages with regulators and industry stakeholders on matters related to cargo safety, security, and operational standards, as well as best practices in cargo handling.



Maritime Industry Australia Ltd (MIAL) represents Australia's commercial maritime interests, including shipowners, operators, and service providers. As the national industry body, MIAL engages with government and industry on policy, regulatory, and operational matters, advocating for workforce

development, sustainability, and industry capability to strengthen the maritime sector.



The Refrigerated Warehouse & Transport Association of Australia Ltd (RWTA) represents businesses in the storage, distribution, and transport of temperature-controlled goods. RWTA works with government and industry on regulatory and operational issues, promoting best practices, compliance, and innovation in cold chain logistics.



The Western Roads Federation (WRF) represents businesses in Western Australia's road transport and logistics sector, advocating on policy, regulatory, and operational issues affecting freight movement and supply chains. WRF engages with government and industry stakeholders to address challenges related to infrastructure, workforce development, and industry sustainability.

Upcoming Events



Purchase your tickets today!

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!

For membership queries, contact Sara Ferguson: sara.ferguson@ustlogistics.com.au | 0458 162 196

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