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MEDIA RELEASE

FREIGHT AT A CROSSROADS: AUSTRALIAN LOGISTICS COUNCIL SEEKS ALL-PARTY COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL SUPPLY CHAIN REFORM

Melbourne, 31 March 2025 – With Australia’s freight volumes projected to grow by 35% by 2040, the nation’s supply chains are facing mounting pressure. The Australian Logistics Council (ALC) is today calling on all political parties to commit to a strong, coordinated, and future-focused supply chain strategy ahead of the 2025 Federal Election.

As the peak body representing the supply chain and logistics sector, the ALC has released its 2025–2026 Election Position Paper, identifying key reforms to ensure Australia’s freight networks remain efficient, resilient, and globally competitive. Without decisive policy action, inefficiencies in freight and logistics will continue to drive up costs for businesses and consumers, increase emissions, and reduce Australia’s ability to compete in global markets.

“Freight is fundamental to national prosperity,” said ALC CEO, Dr Hermione Parsons. “It sustains industries, supports jobs, and underpins Australia’s economic resilience. But without a clear, national approach to modernisation and reform, the cost of inefficiency will continue to rise – affecting businesses, households, and our global standing.”

The ALC has identified five essential national priorities for the next government:

1. A National Freight Reset – Immediate release and implementation of the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy Review, ensuring a fully integrated and modern freight system.
2. Regulatory Harmonisation and Reform – A nationally consistent freight logistics approval framework and Heavy Vehicle Access System to remove regulatory roadblocks and improve efficiency.
3. Workforce Capability and Diversity – A comprehensive workforce assessment, targeted education programs, and strengthened industry diversity initiatives, particularly for women.
4. Infrastructure Investment and Resilience – A shift towards strategic, long-term freight planning to prevent disruptions and improve climate resilience.
5. A Unified Path to Decarbonisation – Aligning state and federal freight emissions policies and investing in low-emission freight technology, renewable diesel, and expanded freight rail capacity.

Dr Parsons stressed that this election is an opportunity for Australia to take decisive steps toward a stronger, more sustainable freight network—one that supports national productivity, cost efficiency, and long-term economic resilience.

“We are at a crossroads,” Dr Parsons said. “We urge the next government to demonstrate leadership by committing to real, structural reforms that provide certainty for industry and deliver tangible benefits for all Australians.”



A National Priority, Not Just an Industry Issue

The ALC is seeking a firm commitment from all political parties to prioritise supply chain modernisation as part of their economic and infrastructure policy platforms. The Position Paper reflects broad industry input, gathered through extensive consultation, and brought together by the ALC to represent a unified industry voice.

“This is not just an industry concern—it’s a national economic priority,” Dr Parsons said. “We need long-term solutions that support a productive, competitive, and resilient freight sector. This is an opportunity for government, industry, and stakeholders to work together in shaping the future of Australian logistics.”

The ALC encourages all political parties to engage with the Position Paper and collaborate with industry to develop a unified freight strategy. It will continue to engage closely with policymakers in the lead-up to the federal election, advocating for a comprehensive, evidence-based, and industry-led approach to freight and supply chain reform.

The Full Election Paper can be found on the ALC website

<https://austlogistics.com.au/media-centre/alc-2025-26-election-position-paper/>

About the Australian Logistics Council

The ALC is the national peak body representing Australia’s end-to-end supply chain logistics industry. ALC plays a critical role in advocating for supply chain productivity and sustainability to build resilience supporting Australia’s dynamic future.

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