



FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC

Hon Rita Saffioti
Minister for Transport; Planning; Lands
Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

National Freight and Supply Chain Priorities

With the recent endorsement by Ministers of the Inquiry into National Freight and Supply Chain Priorities, we thought it timely to provide you with some observations from this Council on the resultant report and industry's potential role in its implementation. (As you are aware, I served as a member of the Expert Panel overseeing the Inquiry.)

The Council strongly endorses the central theme of the Inquiry, namely that the country is in urgent need of a national strategy, supported by all Australian Governments, to improve the productivity of its essential supply chains, be they export, import or domestic in nature. Moreover, that industry needs to be a fundamental and committed partner in this process.

The Council believes that there are unarguable grounds for Western Australia to support the process, notwithstanding our unique economic and geographic characteristics, including the key presence in the State's supply chains of major national and international private sector players and the overarching policy/financial influence of the Federal Government on their operation.

The Inquiry identified five critical action areas to bring about the required supply chain productivity improvements. The Council is active in all of these areas. For example:

- *Nationally Consistent, Integrated Approach*
 - development of integrated system improvements in the inner harbour supply chain and representation from national transport and logistics companies on the Council
- *Measurement of Freight Performance*
 - data collection and monitoring of noise and vibration impacts across the metropolitan freight rail network
- *Planning for Current and Future Needs*
 - protection of freight corridors and hubs through stronger land use planning policy and processes
- *Act to Deliver the Priorities*
 - more efficient freight rail and road operations and connections throughout the State, including investment in inland freight facilities
- *Communicate the Importance of Freight*
 - commencement of a social license for freight initiative designed to enhance community understanding and acceptance



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There are many more specific initiatives identified in the Inquiry and the Council is well placed to take a key role in their related development in such areas as:

- the adoption of collaborative electronic platforms (for example, Port Community Systems);
- the identification of key supply chain vulnerabilities (for example, weather impacts on North West freight movements);
- providing industry input and expertise to the development of State freight strategies and policies;
- working with the telecommunications industry to ensure that related services enhance the productivity of key supply chains; and
- reducing regulatory barriers to the greater use of coastal shipping.

It is early days in this important exercise to improve the performance of the country's essential supply chains, but the recent endorsement by Ministers is an important first step. Now various mechanisms have to be established to commence implementation, including actions on the part of all States.

This brief note is to bring to your attention the strong interest of the Council in seeing the results of this Inquiry put into practice and its ability to assist on behalf of industry with that occurring from a Western Australian viewpoint.

We are available to discuss any aspect of the issue with you.

For information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Lockwood'.

Nicole Lockwood
Chair
24 May 2018