



FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Hon Dean Nalder MLA
Minister for Transport
Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to take over from Fred Affleck as Chair of the Freight and Logistics Council of Western Australia. With its broad membership of senior representatives from both industry and Government, the Council has enormous potential to provide you as Minister with independent advice on a wide range of strategic policy issues, the original intent of the group when established in 2009 as I understand it. In particular, I am keen to develop stronger national linkages for the Council and see my position on the Board of Infrastructure Australia as one means of doing this. The two groups have a number of common objectives in areas such as long term infrastructure planning, protection of freight corridors and road pricing reform.

I attended my first meeting of the Council last week and was impressed by the quality of the contributions from around the table and the strong engagement by members. One of the first steps I would like to take as Chair is to report to you regularly on discussion at the monthly meetings. In that respect, among the main issues covered at last week's meeting were:

1. *The Grain Supply Chain between Farm and Port.*

CBH's current initiative to improve the grain supply chain between farm and port could have important external impacts in areas such as rail/road competition, additional heavy vehicle use of local roads, road pricing and infrastructure investment. The Council has been heavily involved with the issue of grain logistics since its inception and intends to monitor these impacts with a view to understanding related policy implications.

2. *Food Export Supply Chains*

The Government's focus, through the Department of State Development, on developing WA food export chains has identified the need for improved logistics arrangements, especially into key Asian markets. The Council is assisting the Department through its industry contacts in both the sea and air freight sectors. Of particular current interest is a proposal to develop Busselton Airport as an international air freight hub for the South West of the State that arose from Council discussion.

3. *Road Transport Industry*

With the passing of the construction phase in the resources sector, the capacity of the WA road transport industry now considerably exceeds demands for its services. The resultant intense competition between operators has given rise to reports of poor industry practices such as excessive rate cutting, avoidance of regulations, low maintenance levels and reduced fleet replacement. The Council will work with the industry and with Main Roads WA on measures to address broader related problems in areas such as road safety, vehicle productivity and emissions performance.

4. Freight Rail Noise

The Council has been heavily engaged on this issue for some time because restrictions on freight rail operations brought about by community noise concerns would both deny industry a cost-effective means of transport and also result in more trucks on the road. The issue has two distinct aspects. In the green-fields situation of new housing being developed adjacent to freight rail corridors, Council research has led it to argue that land use planning policy should include a more stringent noise metric for freight trains, with greater setbacks from the corridor and more appropriate construction techniques for buildings close to it. In the brownfields situation of developed suburbs (such as South Fremantle), land use planning policy cannot be made retrospective and operational measures to reduce freight rail noise at source are more appropriate. The Council continues its heavy engagement with each aspect of the issue.

In conclusion Minister, I would like to seek the opportunity to personally brief you on the work of the Council periodically and to issue a standing invitation for you or members of your staff to attend the regular Council meetings whenever convenient.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Lockwood', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nicole Lockwood
Chair
08/07/2016