



FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Hon Dean Nalder MLA
Minister for Transport
Level 7, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
West Perth WA 6005

Dear Minister

Funding of Local Roads

At its recent monthly meeting, the Council heard from the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) with concerns about the impact of reduced funding for local roads.

WALGA noted that a reduction in the proportion of vehicle registration revenue that the State Government makes available to Local Government would cut \$70 million from local road funding over the next three years.

While the immediate impact of this drop in funding may not be fully apparent, WALGA is concerned that the cumulative impact of related road maintenance will create significant problems in the years ahead.

In related discussion, members expressed support for the WALGA position, particularly in the case of grain roads. Earlier Council work had drawn attention to the growing number of actual and potential new entrants into the deregulated grain market and their overwhelming propensity to use road transport rather than rail.

That the resultant additional demands on the road network in the Wheatbelt may occur at the same time that local government's ability to adequately maintain its section of the network is reduced by the drop in funding is of particular concern.

Members also discussed possible impacts on other key export industries, be they agricultural or resources-based. Any reduced capacity on the part of local roads accessing regional ports could constrain these industries to the detriment of the State's broader economic interests.

Without buying in directly to the discussion on local road funding between WALGA and the State Government, the Council was nevertheless keen to bring these two specific areas of concern to your attention.

For consideration.

Yours sincerely


Dr Fred Affleck
Chairman

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