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FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC

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

Dear Minister

**Container Trucks at Fremantle Port**

Further to my letter to you of 03 August dealing with the management of supply chain impacts for containerised freight, we have progressed discussions in respect of related heavy road transport industry activities and thought it valuable to bring these to your attention.

There are extremely limited formal requirements in respect of age, condition or suitability for trucks serving the Fremantle container trade. Neither are there many requirements in respect of the size or professionalism of operators seeking to conduct port business.

With various parts of the State economy, especially the resources sector, subdued at present, trucks are regularly arriving at the Port unsuited for the container trade. They may not be adequately equipped to carry containers, they may be too old or they may be in poor condition. These characteristics, in turn, can lead to issues of road safety, emission performance or vehicle productivity. Any or all of these factors are unsatisfactory for the efficiency of the container supply chain and the amenity of the urban communities through which the trucks travel.

Similarly, the presentation of unsuitable vehicles at the Port in respect of age, condition or equipment suitability, may be indicative of less professional operators unable or unwilling to respond to identified port inefficiencies such as absence of two-way loading and undue emphasis on day-time operations.

Main Roads WA has, of course, significant regulatory powers in respect to heavy road transport. However, it has only limited influence on 'as-of-right' vehicles. The majority of trucks serving the Port fall into this latter category.

Main Roads WA is presently reviewing its Western Australian Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme, which currently only applies to restricted access vehicles. We would like to suggest that the review consider extending the agency's jurisdiction for accreditation to 'as-of-right' vehicles in order that the present system of defining and assessing standards apply also to trucks involved in the carriage of containers. (We have raised this possibility informally with Main Roads WA who do not see a problem with it.)

For your consideration please.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N Lockwood', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Nicole Lockwood

Chair

30/08/2017