

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Among the key issues discussed at the meeting were:

- the levy/rebate proposal from on-port operators at Fremantle;
- secondary freight routes in the Wheatbelt;
- the present review of policy governing the protection of freight corridors;
- key projects in the examination of container supply chain efficiencies;
- developments in the Westport initiative;
- Local Government access charging; and
- Metronet feasibility costings.

*Freight and Logistics Council of Western Australia Inc  
Meeting 30 October 2017  
Perth*

**ACTIONS ARISING**

- progress observations raised in recent examination of levy/rebate model proposed by some on-port operators at Fremantle;
- regular progress updates for Council on Wheatbelt secondary freight route initiative; and
- further discussion between consultant and industry on the key issues in the Council's planned SPP 5.4 submission.

## **NOTES OF MEETING**

Those present included:

- Nicole Lockwood, Chair;
- Paul Hamersley, Arc Infrastructure;
- John Oliver, Alcoa;
- Luke Westlake, DP World;
- John Ward, Australian Wool Handlers;
- Grant Thompson, WATCO;
- Ben Raisbeck, CBH Group;
- Jason Holmes, Toll Group;
- Christy Cain, Maritime Union;
- Tim Dawson, Transport Workers Union;
- Stephen Strange, WA Local Government Association;
- Ian Duncan, WA Local Government Association;
- Greg Martin, Independent;
- Chris Leatt-Hayter, Fremantle Ports;
- Richard Sellers, Director General of Transport;
- Steve Beyer, Department of Transport;
- Gail McGowan, Director General of Planning, Lands and Heritage;
- David MacLennan, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage;
- Peter Metcalfe, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development;
- Craig Manton, Main Roads WA;
- Kellie Houlahan, Freight and Logistics Council; and
- Mark Brownell, Freight and Logistics Council.

Guests included:

- Lachlan Benson, Blue Arcadia; and
- Kareena May, Site P+D

### **Agenda Item One: Opening Comments**

Nicole Lockwood welcomed members, deputies and guests to the meeting. Apologies were noted from Sharon Biermann, Rob Delane, Cam Dumesny, Nicolas Fertin, Paul Larsen, Graeme Wilson, Peter Woronzow, David Capper, David Hay-Hendry, Ian Kent and Justin Taylor, a number of whom were represented.

### **Agenda Item Two: Presentations**

#### *a) Levy/Rebate Proposal from Fremantle On-Port Operators*

Nicole Lockwood introduced Lachlan Benson from Blue Arcadia, a Sydney-based consultant engaged to offer independent advice on the proposal for a levy/rebate system that had come forward from some on-port operators at Fremantle.

Lachlan described the proposal in some detail and the consultation process he had gone through relating to it. He said his broad conclusions from the process were that the application of the model in its current form was unlikely to achieve the desired outcome in terms of improving off-peak and night time utilisation of the network. Lachlan also added comment on a broad range of associated logistics issues that had been brought to his attention in the consultation process.

In related discussion after the presentation, it was agreed that Lachlan's inquiry had highlighted a number of areas that warranted further consideration. Nicole Lockwood said that this would occur.

*b) Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Routes*

Stephen Strange said that the freight task in the Wheatbelt was growing and changing in nature, as a result of which some shortcomings in the region's road system were being revealed. Greater consistency on access issues is required across the 42 local government areas involved and a broad network approach should be adopted. Rationalisation of the current road system to identify preferred strategic routes would assist with related road funding discussion. The process was at an early stage and funding was being sought to assist its progress. Craig Manton reported on the involvement of Main Roads WA and the Department of Transport in the process. It was agreed that regular updates on the initiative would be useful. (A copy of Stephen's presentation is attached.)

**Agenda Item Three: Updates**

*a) State Planning Policy 5.4*

Kareena May from Site P+D said that it was imperative from an industry viewpoint that the current review of this policy result in stronger protection of freight corridors. The point of discussion at this meeting was to foreshadow issues arising from the draft policy that may cause concern for industry. If there was agreement on these, they would form the basis of the Council's submission to the review. Kareena listed some of the issues as:

- Laeq vs Lamax;
- ground borne vibration;
- construction standards;
- freight traffic forecasts;
- online mapping;
- policy language; and
- implementation.

It was agreed that these issues were key to the Council response and that there should be more detailed discussion on them with industry in developing the submission. Nicole Lockwood commented that this is the most important project that has been on the Council's agenda this year and she urged all industry members to fully support it. (A copy of Kareena's presentation is attached.)

*b) National Freight and Supply Chain Inquiry*

Nicole Lockwood said that the report from this inquiry was now being drafted. Input from a series of scenario workshops, including a recent one in Perth, had provided important input. She expected that for the next Council meeting, she would be able to provide fuller details.

*c) Inner Harbour Action Plan*

Mark Brownell confirmed that Government departments and agencies, together with the Council on behalf of industry, were progressing a number of initiatives aimed at enhancing container supply chain efficiency and containing truck impacts on the community. He said that several of these, which had a particular interest to industry, were being given some priority for examination. They included incentivising off-peak activity along the supply chain, mounting an information campaign on behalf of the rail service and introducing larger capacity road vehicles in a manner that recognises the Government's support of freight rail.

*d) Westport*

Nicole Lockwood reported that arrangements to support this important Government initiative were now being finalised. A team of specialists from across relevant Departments and agencies has been established, the key role of Project Director was being advertised, the Task Force of senior Government decision-makers had met and a Reference Group representing special interest groups, including industry and unions, would be meeting shortly. Early emphasis was on a community discussion paper that would be available for public information and comment early in the New Year.

Chris Cain said that the Maritime Union believed that the present Inner Harbour facilities had adequate long-term capacity and that new ones in the Outer Harbour were not needed. He wanted to ensure that the union was party to related discussion. Nicole responded that all views needed to be on the table and accounted for. Then a balanced conclusion could be reached and given to the Government for final decision.

In other discussion, the point was made that the timing of any new Outer Harbour facilities impacted critically on Inner Harbour investment decisions. Nicole said that the Task Force was acutely aware of this and priority would be given to the issue.

**Agenda Item Four: Other Issues**

*a) Local Government Access Charging*

Kellie Houlahan noted that this issue had been raised at the previous meeting and that related discussions had occurred since. It appears that a growing number of local councils are charging trucking companies for access to local roads. The WA Local Government Association has drawn up related policy guidelines for its members in the interests of consistency and transparency. While industry and Main Roads WA support the principles within the policy guidelines, there is evidence that some local councils are introducing charging arrangements outside of those guidelines. This practice raises a range of concerns for industry, with which Main Roads WA agrees. The Council has briefed the Minister on the issue and will continue to monitor it.

*b) Metronet Costings*

Mark Brownell said that a fundamental part of the discussion about the protection of freight corridors related to construction standards of adjacent noise-sensitive land uses such as residential. In this context, the Council had written to Metronet to encourage the adoption of appropriate construction standards in all feasibility studies of residential development on rail lines used for the movement of freight such as Cockburn-Thornlie.

**Agenda Item Five: Closing Comments**

Nicole Lockwood thanked members, deputies and guests for their time and input. She said that the next meeting was set for 04 December. This would be the last for the year, so she hoped that all members would be present.