

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Among the issues discussed at this meeting were:

- current freight infrastructure initiatives being pursued by the Government;
- a Council strategy for enhancing the effectiveness of the container supply chain;
- the Council submission to the current national supply chain inquiry;
- digital connectivity in the regions;
- developing a social licence for freight; and
- the current review of the WA rail access regime.

ACTIONS

- Seek briefing on intermodal development at Muchea
- Seek briefing on Ausroads freight agenda
- Advise Minister of approach to container supply chain efficiency
- Develop further thoughts on freight media campaign
- Transport to provide background paper on WA rail access regime to assist Council discussion

NOTES OF MEETING

Those in attendance included:

- Nicole Lockwood, Chair
- Paul Hamersley, Arc Infrastructure;
- Jason Holmes, Toll Group;
- Paul Haigh, Aurizon;
- Grant Thompson, WATCO;
- John Oliver, Alcoa;
- David Capper, CBH Group;
- Greg Martin, Independent;
- Ian Duncan, WA Local Government Association;
- Sharon Biermann, PATREC;
- Gino Valenti, Fremantle Ports;
- Peter Woronzow, Main Roads WA;
- Craig Manton, Main Roads WA;
- Courtney Draper, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development;
- Rob Delane, Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation;
- Steve Beyer, Department of Transport;
- David MacLennon, Department of Planning;
- Kellie Houlahan, Freight and Logistics Council of WA; and
- Mark Brownell, Freight and Logistics Council of WA.

Agenda Item One: Opening Comments

Nicole Lockwood welcomed members to the meeting. She particularly noted Kellie Houlahan who has been seconded to the Council from Main Roads WA to assist with policy work. Apologies were noted from Cam Dumesny, Nicolas Fertin, Paul Larsen, Gail McGowan, Stephen Strange, Chris Leatt-Hayter, Richard Sellers, Graeme Wilson, John Ward, Peter Metcalfe and David Hay-Hendry, many of whom were represented.

Agenda Item Two: Transport Infrastructure Priorities

Steve Beyer gave a presentation on current thinking across the transport portfolio. He said that much of this was influenced by recent work on Perth with a future population of 3.5 million. Of particular interest to members were updates on Metronet, Forrestfield North Passenger Station, Fremantle Port development and the Government's seven point plan for freight and trade. In discussion regarding planning for new Outer Harbour port facilities, Steve said that while this was a longstanding issue, the Government had introduced a particular emphasis on jobs and defence capability. He noted that the Minister was giving priority to the commencement of the planning process. In discussion on new intermodal facilities, Steve suggested that the Council may be interested in a briefing on progress on a new Muchea facility. Peter Woronzow also commented that

Ausroads, which comprised all Government road agencies, had a heavy freight emphasis in its work programme and a briefing may be of interest to members. Each of these suggestions was accepted. (A copy of Steve's presentation is attached.)

Agenda Item Three: Current Issues

a) Container Supply Chain

Nicole Lockwood said that the Minister had asked the Council to examine efficiencies in the container supply chain. In doing so, she said that it was necessary to take a broad top-down approach that embraced a range of activities and policy areas of relevance. Nicole commented that any attempt to pull the strategy apart would hamper the effectiveness of the work. She also made the point that it was necessary to better understand the establishment of new facilities in the Outer Harbour to maximise the effectiveness of interim measures pending that development.

Nicole said that the Council's suggested approach comprised separate streams of activity under the headings of road network upgrades, developing freight rail, establishment of inter-modal facilities, introducing new technology and addressing particular truck issues at the Port. This approach had been workshopped recently, as a result of which, a draft work programme had been developed.

After discussion, there was broad agreement on the suggested approach. Nicole said that the next step was to ensure that the Council was working consistently with Government agencies and she would ensure that was the case. She would also advise the Minister on the direction being taken.

b) Supply Chain Inquiry

Nicole Lockwood thanked members for their contributions to the Council's submission to the current Federal inquiry into supply chain efficiency. She noted that a related workshop had recently been held in Perth and this had generated further valuable material. Nicole said that all inputs had been incorporated into the submission and it would now be sent to Canberra.

Agenda Item Four: New Issues

a) Digital Connectivity in the Regions

Nicole Lockwood said that Minister Alannah MacTiernan had recently convened a forum to discuss digital connectivity in the regions to which she had been invited. Coming out of the discussion had been the agreement that connectivity impacted on freight just as much as other regional activities. As a result, Nicole said that she would remain involved with the issue and keep members updated of progress.

b) Social Licence for Freight

Mark Brownell commented that unlike other essential services, freight did not have a social licence from the community and that this was the basis of many of the challenges confronting the industry. Previous attempts to change community attitudes had tended to focus on the economic benefits arising from freight activity. An emerging view was that a message focussing on freight's support of amenity and lifestyle issues may resonate better. Kellie Houlahan discussed a short trial video clip produced by Main Roads WA with this sort of focus. Members felt that this could be a useful approach and it was agreed to develop the concept further.

c) WA Rail Access Review Regime

Nicole Lockwood said that the Government had just announced this review and that she was interested in members' views as to whether the Council should respond. After discussion, it was decided that while it may be difficult to reach consensus around the table on commercial aspects of rail access, there may be some high-level principles that the Council could usefully support. Steve Beyer offered to provide a briefing paper on the issue to assist further progress.

Agenda Item Six: Concluding Comments

Nicole Lockwood thanked members and deputies for their time and input. She confirmed that the next meeting would be held on 31 August. There being no other issues, the meeting was closed.