



FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS COUNCIL OF WA

CONNECTION, COLLABORATION, RESULTS



Annual Report 2019 – 2020

2019 – 2020 Annual Report

Message from the Chair

The Freight and Logistics Council of Western Australia (the Council) was established in 2009 to provide a high level conduit between industry and Government to facilitate improved strategic policy outcomes relating to supply chain efficiency. Its charter is to provide the WA Minister for Transport with independent advice on strategic policy issues impacting the delivery of freight and logistics services in Western Australia.

The Council promotes the common interests of those who are engaged in, or interested in, strategic freight and logistics activities in or impacting on Western Australia. The Council's members represent all modes of transport from the freight and logistics industry, member organisations and Government.

When issues are raised with the Council, they are progressed through a process of research and discussion. The research being progressed through the resources of our membership and the discussion through our broad network of contacts in industry and government at both State and national levels. This dialogue allows a useful exchange of views during policy formulation and encourages industry ownership of subsequent Government positions.

The Council responded quickly to COVID establishing the WA Supply Chain COVID Response Group and collaboratively worked with Government and industry to keep freight moving.

This report highlights the key activities of the Council during 2019 – 2020, a number of which we will carry forward in to 2020 – 2021, such as Data Sharing and Social License, in our continued efforts to advocate for improved policy outcomes for the sector and support COVID recovery.

I would also like to make special mention of Kellie Houlahan. Kellie left the Council in September 2019 after taking on the role of Executive Officer in 2018, and provided valuable support during her time with the Council.

I look forward to continued engagement with our members, industry and stakeholders in 2021 – 2022.



Nicole Lockwood

December 2020

Council Membership

In January 2020, we repeated our collaborative process to developing the Council's annual work program (the process was initiated in January 2018). A planning workshop was held with Council members, along with broader representatives from the freight industry and local government. The outcomes from the workshop discussion provided input into the development of the Council's 2020 Work Program and the nature of the issues on the work program.

Appointed members continued their role on the Council. During COVID, members formed a number of groups that met as required to address emerging issues that impacted freight. The Council will continue to meet bi-monthly, with working groups of relevant experts providing input into Council projects and providing recommendations to the Council.

In 2019 – 2020, the Council also formed strategic partnerships with both the Australian Logistics Council (ALC) and Ports Australia. The mutually recognised partnership provides benefits through working together on common policy issues and having access to national discussions through membership on the ALC's Infrastructure and Regulation Committee.

Branding and Communications

The Council used its website www.freightandlogisticscouncil.com.au to provide updates to industry on COVID related issues impacting freight.

In addition, the Council's established social media presence was utilised during this period.

Our Focus in 2019 – 2020

COVID Response

The Council established the WA Supply Chain COVID Response Group

Since forming in early March 2020, the group has been critical in:

- Working collaboratively with government in creating protocol documents and approved templates to ensure essential freight workers were able to cross intrastate and interstate borders including:
 - A sector-wide COVID-19 protocol framework for companies and a personal declaration for employees, which in turn was recognised as a general industry standard.
 - Developed and had approved an 'Entry Into Designated Biosecurity Area COVID-19 Risk Management Plan' on behalf of the Freight and Logistics industry to streamline the approval process for individual companies traveling into the biosecurity regions.
 - Worked with Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to create an easy to follow process map outlining the border exemptions process.

- Created an online and PDF Road-house map showing truck stops that remain open throughout the pandemic, incorporating standardised icons of facilities for drivers to use on-the-go.
- Developed transport specific FAQs for Industry and shared these with the COVID Call Centre.
- Provided a 7 day a week road transport industry information and assistance service for interstate and intrastate operators facing specific issues or problems.
- Identifying a shortage of drivers in some industries and a demand in others which led to the creation of the "Driver Exchange Program".
- Commencing the creation of an industry specific driver COVID-19 hygiene awareness course created for drivers and employees working on the front line delivering essential goods and supplies into the community.
- Developing a Data Hub in partnership with Fremantle Port, which brings together information from across all modes and sectors to provide real time data about trends and impacts on the movement of freight.
- Helping form the food security working group, after swiftly identifying towns and regions experiencing food supply issues.
- Coordinating exporters, freight forwarders and consigners to work together to ensure we get access to the Federal funding, in support of DPIRD's air freight working group.
- Managing the procurement of PPE for frontline freight workers to ensure their safety and the safety of the wider community.
- Developing a WA Freight, Logistics and Transport Industry COVID-19 Risk Response Plan looking at three priority risk areas, identified as 1) Reduced Workforce Availability 2) Disrupted Access to a Critical Route and 3) Commercial Distress.

Research

In 2019, the Council continued to support the Curtin University Urban and Regional Planning Scholarship for Freight, Logistics or Supply Chain related research. Jackson Tomich was the successful recipient of the scholarship, with the focus of his research to investigate best practice micro supply chain systems through International fieldwork; and assess how these international best-practice policies can be implemented in inner-city freight. With international travel being so uncertain, Jackson's research will now be primarily done online. His research findings will be shared with Council members at a 2021 Council meeting.

Freight Rail Noise

In recent years there has been an increasing number of complaints from residents who live alongside or in the vicinity of freight rail lines in developed areas not covered by land use policy.

The Council's Freight Rail Noise Working Group met early in the year to discuss and progress actions related to freight rail noise concerns including options which have been identified as potential mitigations for freight rail noise.

Inner Harbour Efficiencies

Inner harbour efficiencies continued to be a focus for the Council in 2019 – 2020 with discussion with members and industry stakeholders considering constraints and opportunities related to the effectiveness of the land transport supply chain in and out of Fremantle Port.

With the Westport Taskforce considering options for the Inner Harbour, a number of the opportunities identified last year were reviewed as part of the Westport process. The Council continues to engage with the Westport project team in regards to their work on the inner harbour operational efficiencies for road and rail.

Inner City Freight

This has been an area of focus for the Council in 2019 to ensure that freight and logistics interests are represented in inner city transport planning and that constraints within current inner city freight operations are addressed.

The Council Secretariat is a member of the External Reference Group for the development of the Department of Transport's CBD Transport Plan and has participated in discussions and workshops with the City of Perth, City of Canning and Western Roads Federation in regards to urban freight movements.

Social Licence for Freight

An ongoing area of focus for the Council is to develop and build a social licence for the freight and logistics industry. An industry, business or project has a social licence when it has ongoing support and approval from local community and other affected stakeholders. The term 'social licence' has become more commonplace, as community expectations for business and industry to operate in a socially responsible manner continue to grow.

A lack of social licence derives from a generally poor level of community understanding in respect of freight. Council members have identified the importance of building a social licence for the freight industry and during the year the Council's Social Licence Working Group continued to progress work in this area.

In September, the Council appointed a consultant to develop a social licence campaign. The campaign was put on hold because of COVID. The campaign was refreshed in 2020 to capitalise on the increased awareness of the importance of freight and to provide a thankYou to the freight industry. The "Thanks Freight" social media campaign is scheduled to run in the November and December 2020.

Also In the second half of 2019, the Council worked with the National Maritime Museum, the Western Australian Museum and Fremantle Ports to bring the *Container* exhibition to Fremantle in October 2019. *Container* was a free, outdoor, interactive exhibition exploring the history and impact of containerisation and the Council was very excited to bring the exhibition to Fremantle for six months from November 2019.

Container has been created by the Australian National Maritime Museum to demonstrate the importance and impact shipping containers have on the transportation of goods, through providing insight into how containers have changed the way we share, produce and consume goods. Housed entirely within specially modified 20-foot containers, the exhibition quite literally takes visitors inside the 'box' to explore the geographic, economic, technical, environmental, social, and cultural history and impact of containerisation. *Container* is an excellent opportunity for the community learn about container shipping through informative and interactive displays, sharing with them the importance of freight movements in our everyday lives.

Connection, Collaboration, Results

The role of the Council in creating connections between industry and Government and facilitating collaborative approaches to issues to achieve results was highlighted during COVID.

In addition to the key initiatives described above, the Council was involved on a frequent basis with non-project work including brokering outcomes, maintaining and expanding networks, investigating issues of concern to Council stakeholders, providing industry advice to Government on request and ensuring that the Council is regarded across public and private sectors as a 'go to' organisation in respect of all freight and logistics policy issues.

Council members have also been providing strategic input on freight and logistics infrastructure needs to Infrastructure WA for the development of the State's twenty year Infrastructure Strategy.

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