

OFFICIAL



FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS COUNCIL OF WA
CONNECTION, COLLABORATION, RESULTS

Annual Report 2024



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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 the State Government and facilitate improved strategic policy outcomes related to freight movement.

The Council's purpose is to provide direct advice to the Minister for Transport on high-impact issues affecting freight and logistics efficiency and sustainability within the WA supply chain. This includes relationships on cross-modal issues.

The Council promotes the common interests of those engaged in strategic freight and logistic activities impacting Western Australia. Its members represent all modes of transport in the freight and logistics industry, state and local government organisations and maritime and transport unions.

When issues are raised within the Council, they are progressed through research and discussion. The research is enabled through the resources of our staff and membership and our broad network in industry and government at both state and national levels. This dialogue allows an exchange of views during policy formulation and encourages industry ownership of subsequent State Government positions.

This report highlights the key activities of the Council during 2024, some of which will be carried forward into 2025. Key areas of activity include supply chain resilience, decarbonisation of the road freight sector and input into developing training programs for freight and logistic workers and trainees. The Council was also involved in important state infrastructure programs such as land freight access considerations, protection of freight corridors and planning for the proposed Westport. It is increasingly active in advising the State Government on east-west supply chains and how to mitigate disruption.

At a national level, the Council continues to be involved in the Federal Government's Freight Data Hub and provides input into the Federal Government's National Freight and Supply Chain Review.

The Council collaborated with the Department of Transport to facilitate stakeholder engagement workshops in developing its Regional Freight Strategy. The first meeting involved the Council developing the strategic direction for the rollout of the consultation across the regions. The second workshop invited the Council's Freight Reference Group (FRG) into a broader discussion. These meetings took place in May.

Established in 2023, the FRG is not part of the Council but provides input on matters within its members' areas of expertise. The FRG also joined Council members in a July workshop on Resilient Transport Systems in WA hosted by the State's Transport Portfolio. This workshop explored climate and disaster risk in WA's transport and supply chain systems.

The Council's executive team continued with Executive Officer Drew Gaynor and Executive Assistant Lynne Karow assisting myself and the Council on matters at hand.

The Freight and Logistics sector faced challenging circumstances in 2024 and will face other challenges in the future. I look forward to continued engagement with our members, industry, and stakeholders on strategic freight and logistics issues in 2024.



Megan McCracken AICD
Chair

Council Membership and Planning

The Council is a dynamic group and from year to year the membership may change to ensure that a broad range of voices from industry are heard. The Council's membership for 2024 was:

- Centurion Transport
- Fremantle Ports
- Arc Infrastructure
- Perth Airport
- Qube Bulk
- Western Roads Federation
- Transport Workers Union
- Department of Transport
- Co-operative Bulk Handling
- Mid-West Ports
- WA Local Govt Association
- Maritime Union of Australia
- Livestock Rural Transport Assoc of WA
- Watco/Intermodal Group
- Main Roads WA
- Dept of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Public Transport Authority of WA
- Aurizon
- WA Planning Commission
- Chamber Minerals & Energy WA
- StarTrack
- Container Transport Alliance Australia

The Hon David Michael MLA attended the August meeting for dialogue with the Council on freight and logistics matters.

In 2024, the Council welcomed the Container Transport Alliance Australia to the Council, represented by Neil Chambers, Director of the Alliance. Departing the Council was the Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC). MSC will continue to contribute to the Council through the FRG.

With the four meetings held in 2024, we invited:

- Hon. Kyle McGinn MLC, delivering the WA Shipping and Supply Taskforce's report.
- The Australian Rail Track Corporation on the east-west rail line disruption in 2024 and investment and planned investment in the line.
- Aurizon on their fleet decarbonisation program.
- Dept of Transport on the progress with the Commonwealth's strategic fleet initiative.
- Dept of Transport on the National Heavy Vehicle Driver Competency Framework.
- Westport on the progression of Westport planning.

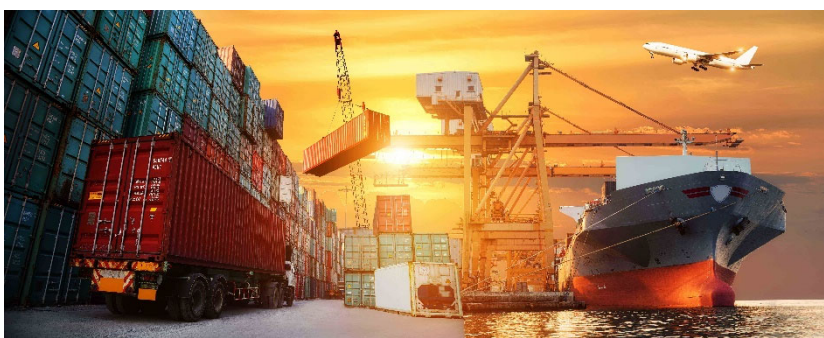
Alliances

In 2024, the Council continued its strategic partnership with the Australian Logistics Council (ALC). The mutually recognised partnership benefits the two organisations by allowing them to work together on common policy issues and have access to national discussions. The Council attended the ALC's supply chain summit in May.

The Council maintains contact with Ports Australia and other state-based freight councils, including the NSW Freight Transport Advisory Council, Queensland Transport and Logistics Council and the South Australian Freight Council, as well as other associations and industry groups.

Our Focus

The Council deals with various freight and logistic issues in any given year. Some are planned, while others present themselves during the year. In 2024, the Council reorganised its work program to include Board endorsed projects, as well as strategic Issues, standing work items, and other activities that came before the Council



Strategic Issues

Supply Chain Resilience

Supply chain resilience is the collective responsibility of government and industry. Each has a role in ensuring supply chains work efficiently and withstand disruption. When disruption occurs, a collaborative approach is required from government and industry to restore links and the flow of goods and services.

Supply chain resilience is usually seen through the prism of disruption by weather events such as the Trans Australian Rail Line break in 2022 and 2024 or the damage to the Fitzroy River Crossing bridge and the subsequent building of a new bridge.

Issues include:

- Developing infrastructure that can withstand greater severity of weather.
- Developing alternate routes or modes of transport.
- Developing better rapid recovery plans.
- Developing capacity to ease the impact of disruptions.

However, it is also correct to consider supply chain resilience to meet the needs of the state's growing and changing economy.

Issues include:

- Identifying supply chain weaknesses for the future economy.
- Identifying what these challenges will be in terms of emerging industries.
- Identifying what infrastructure will be required.
- Identifying operational and regulatory support for supply chain resilience.
- Understanding how national and international supply chains impact intrastate supply chains and how to leverage these changes, such as a shift to direct shipping to Pilbara.
- Understanding logistics warehouse and distribution centre capacity and the impacts on supply chains.
- Understanding relationships between air, sea and land freight modes.
- Understanding AI, cybersecurity, and emerging technology.
- Understanding the transitioning of the freight sector to zero emissions.

The Council continues to work with the government and industry to promote supply chain resilience. Building on its supply chain resilience forum of August 2023, the Council reported several actions to Minister Michael, including the need for a strategic freight plan. The outcome was the government commencing the development of a Regional Freight Strategy.

As part of developing the Regional Freight Strategy, the Council collaborated with the Department of Transport (DoT) to engage stakeholders across the state. This started with a Council meeting to help scope the structure of the subsequent regional workshops.

The key themes for these workshops were:

- Climate change and supply chain resilience
- Decarbonisation
- Emerging technologies



Decarbonisation of the Freight Sector

The move from fossil fuel freight vehicles to emission-free freight vehicles is an area of focus for the Council. The State Government plans to reach net zero emissions by 2050. This is being driven through its Sectorial Emissions Reduction Strategy. The DoT is the lead agency on the transport component through the Transport Sector Emissions Reduction Strategy program.

As part of the State Government's decarbonisation agenda, the Council co-hosted a government and industry workshop in July 2024 with the Transport Portfolio. This workshop explored climate and disaster risk in WA's transport and supply chain systems. It was intended to help prioritise areas of vulnerability from climate change, shape future funding models, and increase understanding of the impacts on the broader community and industries.

The workshop explored four scenarios set in WA with different climate hazards to build an understanding of how climate hazard impacts on assets (roads, rail, ports, airports, distribution centres) flow through to impacts on freight and logistics services, customers, communities, and workers.

From the workshop findings, four key focus areas have been identified:

1. East-West rail line - Identifying what would be required to designate certain supply chain assets as "essential services," specifically the East-West rail line guaranteeing access to freight.
2. Developing a Resilient Freight Network Investment Case and Infrastructure Resilience Bond designs to enable the freight and resources sectors to co-invest.
3. Warehousing Investment Case. Warehousing is identified as a need in an isolated state; however, there is not (yet) the market imperative for new or additional warehousing in regional areas.
4. Pilbara - Identifying how we can activate the private sector to build resilience in freight and logistics systems in the North of WA.

Workforce Skills and Shortages

The Council continues to work with the Logistics and Defence Skills Council (LDSC), which provides strategic industry advice on workforce development needs in WA. In 2023, the LDSC reviewed the skilling priority occupation efforts and directives impacting the supply chain, including the industry qualifications list. LDSC engaged with the Council in early 2024 in developing its next review.

National Freight Supply Chain Review

The Commonwealth's National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy provides the framework to meet Australia's growing freight task and sets a holistic, coordinated, and multi-modal approach to freight and supply chains agreed upon by all state and territory governments.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts is conducting the first five-year review of the Strategy on behalf of the Federal Transport Minister and in collaboration with state and territory governments.

The Council was invited to participate in an industry reference group that helped determine key performance indicators (KPI) to measure the performance of the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy. The group developed possible KPIs for inclusion in the Strategy and reported to the Jurisdictional Working Group with recommendations on KPIs to be included in the refreshed Strategy.

Submissions

- The West Australian Planning Commission invited the Council to comment on the proposed amendment to the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) amendment as it proposed to rezone the land abutting the freight rail corridor from Kwinana to Mundijong from 'rural' to the 'urban deferred' zone.

Standing Work Items

The Council continues to be involved in several important ongoing projects. One example is Westport's planning for the new container port in Kwinana. The Council is a key stakeholder in the Westport Supply Chain Industry Reference Group, advising on land access freight challenges to supply the new port efficiently and providing meaningful industry input to ensure optimal outcomes, including future-proofing the port.

Other activities the Council has or continues to be involved in include:

- The Perth Airport Community Briefing Group that provides a forum on airport planning, development and operations.
- The State Resupply Reference Group has been established to provide specific advice and support about resupply risk management and business continuity across the State.
- Council were invited by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts to join a working group to develop KPIs for inclusion in the refreshed National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy at the end of the year.
- Main Roads' are implementing an Intelligent Transport System Masterplan and Roadmap to 2030, which includes roadside technologies, control and data systems increasing safety, improving efficiency and enhancing reliability. FLC is a member of the External Advisory Committee alongside the State Government and industry.

