



## Support for Nationally Significant Infrastructure

The Australian Logistics Council (ALC) supports investment in nationally significant infrastructure that demonstrably increases the efficiency of the national freight task, CEO of the Australian Logistics Council, Michael Kilgariff, said in response to the Commonwealth Budget.

ALC is the peak national body for Australia's freight T&L industry, and aims to influence government policy decisions to ensure that Australia has a safe, secure, reliable, sustainable and competitive freight T&L industry.

"Australia's freight task will triple by 2050 – from 503 billion tonne kilometres to 1,540 billion tonne kilometres, with local demand for total freight movements increasing by as much as 60% by 2020", said Mr Kilgariff.

"ALC supported the *Henry Review* proposal that road infrastructure provision should be judged against economic criteria comparable to other forms of infrastructure, which would ensure that appropriate road infrastructure is provided where the national freight task requires it most.

"ALC therefore welcomes the Government's announcement that it will establish a new infrastructure fund, worth more than \$5.6 billion over ten years, to help tackle capacity constraints.

"ALC supports rigorous national freight task criteria being applied to how Infrastructure Australia develops the National Infrastructure Pipeline and expends the funds.

"In the ALC submission to Infrastructure Australia on the National Freight Network Plan, '[A Seamless Economy - A Seamless Supply Chain](#)', ALC said *Nationally Significant Infrastructure* should have regard to the size and importance of the infrastructure to the national economy.

"ALC also recommended that *Nationally Significant Infrastructure* should include *inland ports or intermodal facilities*. For that reason ALC supports the allocation of \$70.7 million to progress the intermodal terminal precinct at Moorebank in Sydney.

"ALC agrees that Moorebank will provide an integrated freight transport solution in Sydney which should reduce costs and relieve bottlenecks.

"Rail is also an important component of intermodal facilities and the national freight task.

"For that reason, ALC supports the increase of \$1 billion in the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) to upgrade even more of its 10,000 kilometre network, with a total investment in the network now \$3.4 billion over six years.

"ALC has a policy objective of supporting *appropriate nationally consistent regulatory frameworks and transparent markets*, which will improve the efficiency of the national freight task.

"We welcome therefore the ongoing commitment by the Rudd Government to national regulation by providing an additional \$8.3 million to ensure national regulators for heavy vehicles, and maritime and rail safety, meet the deadline of implementation by 2013.

"In line with this, ALC still supports the Henry Review recommendation for the Government to encourage COAG to develop a National Road Transport Agreement to guide governments in the use and supply of road infrastructure and to nominate a single institution to lead road tax reform", Mr Kilgariff said.

Ends 11 May 2010

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