



FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Hon Bill Marmion BE MBA MLA
Minister for State Development; Transport; Innovation
Level 10
London House
216 St George's Terrace
Perth WA 6000

Dear Minister

The Freight and Logistics Council held its February meeting last week. For your information, a summary of the key issues discussed is as follows:

Transport Security

Recent overseas experience has seen transport having a growing role in security incidents, a number involving loss of life. The Council met with senior officers from the security unit of WA Police to establish ongoing liaison on the issue. The discussion will continue.

Metropolitan Freight Rail Operations

As you would be aware, WATCO (CBH's rail carrier) has recently taken a majority share in the Intermodal Group, the operator of the metropolitan freight rail service for containers. WATCO informed the meeting that it was working on various strategies to lift rail's share of the container market. Also, it will be introducing new locos and wagons which should contribute to rail noise reduction at key sensitive locations.

Forrestfield North Passenger Rail Station

The Council has expressed concern in the past about noise-sensitive land uses being developed in the immediate vicinity of the new Forrestfield North Passenger Rail Station because of its close proximity to the Forrestfield Freight Rail Yard and surrounding rail activities. (There are 600 train movements per week in this area, forecast to double by 2031.) Any resultant community concern that led to calls for rail operations in the area to be restricted would have serious economic consequences for the State. The planning process for the development is now with the Shire of Kalamunda. The Council has opened discussions with the Shire to ensure its awareness of the potential conflict. These discussions have been encouraging to date.

Council Incorporation

Progress continues on the Council's earlier decision to become more independent of Government through incorporation. Members believe that the development will allow the group to more effectively provide independent and confidential advice to the Minister. It has been made very clear that incorporation will not involve overt advocacy or lobbying.

Transport and Logistics Global Centre of Excellence

It has been suggested that WA should take advantage of its position as a world leader in the provision of long distance and remote freight and logistics services by establishing a Global Centre of

Excellence as a hub for related research, education, technology development and commercial initiatives. The initiative would be progressed in association with the tertiary education sector. Members endorsed further development of this concept.

Grain Harvest

The meeting discussed the recent record grain harvest in the State and the extreme weather events that immediately followed it. The grain logistics chain, already under pressure with significant tonnages needing to move from bins to ports, was further tested by unprecedented flooding throughout the State. Serious damage was incurred by both rail and road infrastructure, some of which is yet to be repaired. The cost of delays and grain quality reduction has yet to be calculated. This recent experience illustrates the vulnerability of a number of key supply chains involving commodities vital to the State's economic well-being. The Council will continue its examination of these.

For your information Minister

Yours sincerely



Nicole Lockwood
Chair
27 February 2017