



FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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

Dear Minister

In keeping with my recent practice, I would like to pass on the key outcomes from discussion at the recent meeting of the Council held on 25 November 2016. They were as follows:

National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR)

As you know, WA has not signed up to a national regulatory approach to the heavy vehicle industry. At the meeting, the WA Road Transport Association presented strong arguments why this position needs to be maintained, the crux of the case being the fundamental differences between east and west coast trucking. Main Roads WA will further advance the discussion at the Council's next meeting and suggest some initiatives that WA might consider suggesting to the NHVR to better address national differences.

Optimising Supply Chains

The Federal Government has just signed off on Infrastructure Australia's proposal for further work to be done on seeking supply chain efficiencies in this country. I had the opportunity to discuss the matter recently with the Federal Minister and the Secretary of his Department. They were enthused about WA featuring prominently in this work, as a result of which, the Council will suggest a number of supply chains in this State that could be examined. Agri-business supply chains in the South West and in the Kimberley have been mentioned in this context, as has the container supply chain serving Fremantle Port. The Council would expect to be involved in this work.

Economic Indicators

The point has often been made at Council meetings that the current experience of the freight and logistics industry is a very clear indicator of the state of the WA economy overall. At the recent meeting, the road transport industry presented the views of its members on a sector-by-sector basis. While these views were informal and anecdotal in nature, they represent real time experience felt by operators on the ground. Members believe that this sort of feedback was just as valuable as the usual economic indicators that tend to be used for related discussion. As a result, the Council will examine the potential of a regular report from all parts of the transport industry comprising feedback from operators. This could be a valuable supplement for Government to the standard economic indicators.

Transitioning the Council

Members endorsed the Council transitioning to a more independent body as we discussed at our recent meeting. I am continuing related discussions with your Department aimed at moving to the

first stage of the new model by the end of 2016-17. Members believe that the transition will improve the Council's ability to provide timely and useful advice to the Government on behalf of industry.

I look forward to continuing to report positive developments for the Council to you across the course of the coming year.

Yours sincerely



Nicole Lockwood
Chair

30/11/2016