



FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC

Hon Rita Saffioti
Minister for Transport; Planning; Lands
Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
West Perth WA 6005

Dear Minister,

Council Update

Last week's Council meeting was attended by a wide range of senior industry representation including those from Sadliers, Aurizon, Toll, Alcoa, Australian Wool Handlers, CBH, Linfox and Arc Infrastructure. This breadth of commercial experience in one group is unique in Western Australia and does confirm the Council's position as the peak freight body for the State. (We were also delighted to welcome to the meeting David Hay-Hendry from your office.)

Discussion at the meeting covered a number of current issues, amongst which were:

a) Implications for Freight Rail from the Metronet Project

A most useful briefing on Metronet by a senior member of the project team indicated that there are two main areas where new passenger services will interface directly with freight rail, along the Cockburn/Thornlie line and in the Midland area. A number of potential related challenges were discussed and arrangements put in place to ensure that there would be ongoing liaison between the Council and the Metronet team regarding means of addressing them.

b) Land Use Planning and Future Freight Development

We do appear to be on the cusp of some significant new freight developments in the metropolitan area, especially related to the Outer Harbour project. These developments will all be impacted by land use planning considerations and there is a strong desire by members that the Council represent freight in related discussions. The meeting identified such policy issues including corridor protection, the role of local government, industrial land supply, connectivity and inland intermodal terminals as requiring Council involvement.

With the first of these issues, corridor protection, significant concern was expressed around the table about State Planning Policy 5.4. The Council has, of course, been expressing this sentiment for some time. However, the new understanding that the Metronet project has the potential to cause problems for freight because of this policy has renewed members' call on the Government to address related shortcomings as a matter of urgency.

c) National Supply Chain Study

From my position on the related Industry Panel, I was able to update members on this important national initiative. The public submission phase of the work received strong support from industry, the Panel now working through the input with a view to meeting the Federal Minister in October to confirm progress and move onto the next phase of the study.

d) Container Supply Chain Efficiencies

As you know, the Council is working closely with your Departments and agencies to seek efficiencies in the container supply chain based on Fremantle Inner Harbour. In related discussion at the meeting, it was highlighted that the issue involves a number of different but highly inter-dependent activity streams, all with potential for improvement. The current work is considering all of these and industry input through the Council is considered pivotal to their progress.

e) Aurizon Developments

It was recently announced that the major national freight and logistics company Aurizon has sold its intermodal business to a consortium comprising Pacific National and Linfox. The meeting heard that the impact on Western Australia of this development will be minimal. There will be the loss of Aurizon's interstate services (about 11 per cent of the market), but the strong prediction is that Pacific National will expand its existing interstate operation to fill this gap. And there ongoing discussion about the Forrestfield Freight Yard, the major rail facility adjacent to the planned passenger station at Forrestfield North.

f) Austroads

A useful suggestion came from Main Roads that the Council may wish to suggest a number of freight projects that could be considered by Austroads, the national road research body supported by road authorities across the country. The meeting heard further detail of the opportunity and has put in place arrangements to progress it.

Minister, the Council is becoming more widely recognised as the peak freight body in this State and industry support for it is growing, as was confirmed by the representation at this meeting. The group has progressed even in the six months since your visit to it in April. It occurs that with your intention to formalise the membership, you might see value in using that development to attend a Council meeting before the end of the year, not only to hear detail of the work being progressed, but also to brief industry on progress with key Government initiatives such as the Outer Harbour development. We would be delighted to welcome you.

Yours sincerely



Nicole Lockwood
Chair
05/09/2017