



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 of WA has just held its first meeting for 2017. The year is looking like a busy and productive one for the group. The recent meeting reviewed some of the issues before us. For your information, a summary of them is as follows:

Southern Ports Authority

Members heard from Nicolas Fertin, Chief Executive of Southern Ports Authority (SPA) on the three ports that comprise SPA. While the performance and prospects appear strong for Bunbury, Albany and Esperance ports, key amongst the challenges for all of them (particularly Albany) is land-side encroachment on port access. This is a bigger issue than regional ports as you know, potentially threatening a number of key freight corridors and precincts across the State. The Council intends to maintain a strong voice on behalf of the freight industry across 2017 in related discussions.

National Heavy Vehicle Regulator

Industry is most supportive of the Government's position that this State remain outside of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) because of the unique characteristics of WA's road transport industry. The Council will be writing to you shortly on the issue.

New Heavy Vehicle Technology

Main Roads WA is progressing a number of technological initiatives aimed at enhancing truck productivity. These include a 'smart plate' that embeds telematic capacity in a vehicle licence plate, a planned automated truck trial and road pricing for higher mass vehicles. The Council is keen to work with Main Roads WA to develop such initiatives with industry support and expertise.

Empty Truck Running

One of the most effective ways of increasing truck productivity is to reduce one-way loaded running. The problem is especially prevalent in the haulage of containers, but it occurs elsewhere across the industry as well. The WA Road Transport Association, with the Council's support, is to conduct a major examination of the issue over coming months. Success with it would help address many of the traffic congestion issues that concern the community, while also keeping a cap on transport costs so that imports are affordable and exports competitive.

Freight Rail Noise

This two-year project, which is examining operational means of addressing freight rail noise in developed suburbs, is being managed by the Council and funded by industry and Government

stakeholders. Six months into the project, work is progressing on time and below budget. A new system is in place to receive and record community concerns about freight rail noise so that "hot spots" are identified. Noise monitoring trials will commence shortly.

Transitioning Council

As discussed with you, Council members believe that they would be better placed to provide independent industry advice to you on a range of issues if the group did not operate under the auspices of the Department of Transport as is currently the case. Legal advice has been sought on the process of incorporation for the Council. Members, including the Director General of Transport, have endorsed that process proceeding. In so doing, members are very clear that the group will maintain a strong link to government and remain an advisory rather than lobbying body.

Minister, I will keep you informed on all of these issues, and others, as they are progressed by the Council across the course of 2017.

Yours sincerely



Nicole Lockwood
Chair
23 January 2017