



ALC congratulates Albanese on Re-appointment as Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

The Australian Logistics Council congratulates Anthony Albanese on his re-appointment as Australia's Minister for Infrastructure and Transport.

"Minister Albanese commands respect in the transport & logistics industry because he backs up fine words with firm action", said ALC CEO Michael Kilgariff.

"He has a strong understanding of the industry and of the need to develop national laws to replace the often confusing, complex and inconsistent laws and regulations that are currently controlled by the Commonwealth, state and local governments.

"This inconsistent regulation between jurisdictions and the resulting red tape adds considerable and unnecessary costs to business, consumers and exports.

"The transport & logistics Industry is a critical part of the Australian economy, generating 14.5% of Australia's GDP and providing more than 1 million jobs across 165,000 companies. ALC estimates that every 1% increase in efficiency will save Australia around \$1.5 billion.

"Minister Albanese has been the champion of the need to develop a national transport & logistics market by supporting the establishment of regulatory frameworks for national rail safety and marine safety regulators, as well as a National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, by 2013.

"These initiatives require a Commonwealth Minister prepared to make it happen by showing leadership and getting involved in negotiations with industry and governments.

"Anthony Albanese has demonstrated that he is more than prepared to demonstrate leadership to ensure important national transport & logistics reform is developed and implemented.

"Minister Albanese has also been a big supporter of the need for a National Port Strategy and National Freight Network Plan, which are being developed by Infrastructure Australia.

"ALC is of the view that the National Freight Network Plan should set the agenda for all governments to ensure the appropriate regulatory environment, infrastructure and investment is in place to meet Australia's freight needs.

"All transport ministers of the Australian Transport Council are due to meet on 24 September to review and implement measures to progress the national transport & logistics regulatory reform agenda

"ALC hopes this meeting date is confirmed and looks forward to all Australian governments renewing their commitment to appropriate national transport & logistics reform.

"ALC was concerned when the COAG Reform Council's Report on *Delivering a Seamless National Economy for 2008–09* highlighted concerns about governments' progress on the transport and infrastructure reforms.

"ALC looks forward to working with Minister Albanese and the Australian Transport Council to making the national infrastructure and transport agenda happen", Mr Kilgariff said.

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For further information contact Michael Kilgariff of ALC on 0418 627 995.

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