



AUSTRALIAN LOGISTICS COUNCIL

Senate Committee on AusLink Submission from the Australian Logistics Council

The Australian Logistics Council has 65 members, most of who are industry leaders at the Chairman or CEO/MD level and who are drawn from all sections of the Freight Logistics Supply Chain. This includes major logistics customers (users), logistics providers, heads of government departments and regulators, CEOs of industry peak bodies covering all four transport modes, and senior industry specialists. We are a partnership between the logistics industry and government focused on improving the efficiency in delivery of Australian logistics.

A major part of this focus is to act as a key conduit for industry input on AusLink at a national level. The following points are therefore made.

- The core idea of AusLink is strongly supported. Infrastructure decisions must be made on the basis of corridor priorities, not mode by mode, in a long term (20 year) context and with national priorities in mind. ALC congratulates the Australian Government for tackling this difficult but vital change in the basic approach to major infrastructure decisions.
- It will be important to ensure that infrastructure is not addressed in isolation. Logistics is a system and investment in infrastructure must be matched by attention to reform and streamlining of regulations and by the development of people with the skills to operate the system. These three areas, infrastructure, people and regulation, must all be considered within the AusLink framework.
- AusLink has major gaps that will need to be filled in future plans. This includes inequities in distribution of funds between states as well as parts of the logistics system that are of national significance that are not currently recognised as part of the national network and that should be added. We understand that these gaps are addressed in detail in other submissions so we will not repeat them here other than to add that it is essential that State and Federal Governments work closely with ALC and industry to set priorities for additions in future infrastructure plans.
- AusLink is fundamentally a national freight plan. It would be useful to recognise this, rather than continue to promote it as a comprehensive transport plan. This would allow attention to be paid to the non freight part, that is the passenger part, of the transport task in due course.
- ALC does not support the creation of a new body such as an Infrastructure Council to guide AusLink. ALC already exists and is ready to fulfil a pivotal role in industry consultation for which we are ideal suited. We already
 - have the right people on the council including industry leaders, CEOs of industry peak bodies, Chairs of all of the State based Freight Councils representing SEMS, and senior government officials.
 - cover all elements of logistics including the four transport modes, intermodal activities and all stages of the supply chain.
 - have strong representation from customers (logistics users)
 - are national with representation from all states and territories
 - are able to work with all three levels of government
 - have strong industry support to perform this role
 - were endorsed to perform this role by the Australian Transport Council of Ministers when they endorsed the Logistics Action Agenda recommendations 23,24, 25, 26 and 33



AUSTRALIAN LOGISTICS COUNCIL

- have an active Infrastructure Steering Group reporting to the Council. This group has the engagement and support of AusLink as its highest priority
- are in the process of establishing comprehensive consultation arrangements within the logistics industry so that our advice is soundly representative and well informed.

We suggest that AusLink should use the mechanisms, such as ALC, that already exist rather than create new and unnecessary arrangements.

For further information or comment on this submission please contact
Hal Morris Executive Director ALC (02) 9266 9904
Ivan Backman, Chairman, ALC 0409 701 579
Robert Jeremy, Chairman, ALC Infrastructure Steering Group (02) 84848040

Hal Morris

Executive Director
Australian Logistics Council
hal.morris@austlogistics.com.au

29 April 2005