



# Transport and Infrastructure Council

## *Communiqué*

WEDNESDAY, 25 March 2020

Today, the Transport and Infrastructure Council (Council) convened to discuss the impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19) currently being experienced by Australia's transport sectors. Council comprises Transport, Infrastructure and Planning Ministers from the Commonwealth, States and Territories, and the Australian Local Government Association.

We, Australia's Transport and Infrastructure Ministers, wanted to reassure Australians that supporting freight movements and supply of goods to individuals, businesses and service providers is a high priority for all governments.

The Commonwealth and States and Territories Governments have needed to implement significant and unprecedented restrictions on the everyday lives of Australians right across our great country.

Ministers emphasised the importance of a nationally consistent approach whilst ensuring responses are appropriate for the people and places affected.

Ministers also affirmed the critical role the freight sector plays in providing essential supplies of food, medicine or other goods. Our freight and logistics sector starts at the border via our maritime and aviation routes. We then use rail and trucks to move substantial quantities of goods throughout the country, from ports and airports to the doors of individuals, businesses, and service providers. This includes recognition of the importance of all members of the freight distribution chain, from drivers, pilots, and engineers and others who support them, including those in the back-office working out rostering and logistics.

Some State and Territory Governments have introduced additional border control arrangements to manage the unique challenges occurring in those jurisdictions. All jurisdictions where restrictions are in place have provided exemptions to these measures to ensure Australia's supply chains are maintained. All Ministers in jurisdictions that have introduced border controls are working together to provide clarity and consistency of these measures.

Further, all governments are working together, along with industry and regulators such as the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, to ensure that any unnecessary barriers to freight movement are minimised.

We want to thank all those Australians involved in the freight industry who are serving Australia so diligently despite the challenges we face.

Ministers continue to work together and with industry to ensure supplies are maintained across Australia. The Commonwealth, and State and Territory Governments are all committed to ensuring Australians have the supplies they need during this difficult time.

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## PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

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**The Hon Michael McCormack MP**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure,  
Transport and Regional Development  
(Commonwealth)

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<b>The Hon Andrew Constance MP</b>	Minister for Transport and Roads (New South Wales)
<b>The Hon Paul Toole MP</b>	Minister for Regional Transport and Roads
<b>The Hon Jacinta Allan MP</b>	Minister for Transport Infrastructure (Victoria)
<b>The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC</b>	Minister for Roads; Road Safety and the TAC (Victoria)
<b>The Hon Mark Bailey MP</b>	Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Queensland)
<b>The Hon Stephan Knoll MP</b>	Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government; Planning (South Australia)
<b>The Hon Rita Saffioti MLA</b>	Minister for Transport; Planning (Western Australia)
<b>The Hon Michael Ferguson MP</b>	Minister for Infrastructure and Transport (Tasmania)
<b>The Hon Eva Lawler MLA</b>	Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (Northern Territory)
<b>Chris Steel MLA</b>	Minister for Transport Canberra; City Services; Multicultural Affairs; Recycling and Waste Reduction; Roads and Active Travel (Australian Capital Territory)
<b>Mayor David O'Loughlin</b>	President (Australian Local Government Association)

