

The NSW Freight Transport Advisory Council (FTAC) provides strategic advice to the NSW Government on freight transport strategies, policies, and projects in NSW. The Council also provides a link between the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads and the freight transport sector.

FTAC Meeting 7 September 2022

The Freight Transport Advisory Council (FTAC) met on Wednesday 7 September, chaired by independent member Hon Duncan Gay.

Since the inaugural meeting in June, the membership has identified three priority areas for the Council that cut across the whole supply chain. The priority areas agreed by the Council are freight integration, seamless supply chains, and sustainability. These priority areas have been distilled from discussion on the need to consider the role of freight at each point in the supply chain and the importance of understanding freight from an operational and policy perspective within the broader system.

Minister Farraway addressed the Council and provided an update on current portfolio priorities. He recognised the considerable disruption to the freight networks due to flooding and wet weather in July, which particularly impacted the rail network, and thanked the industry for working with each other and government to get priority freight moving as quickly as possible.

The Minister highlighted that the NSW Government is continuing to deliver freight-focussed projects with investment in regional infrastructure under the Fixing Country Bridges and Fixing Country Roads initiatives. The Minister also recognised the importance of partnering with the freight industry and the use of industry expertise to inform the prioritisation of future investment to maximise the efficiency and resilience of the transport network.

Wendy Machin, Chair of the Independent Review of Road Classification and Transfer, presented on the process the panel has undertaken in the review. FTAC members provided feedback on how freight might be further considered in the Independent Review. Members agreed that regional employment principles and financial sustainability issues were key to decision making from a network perspective.

Elizabeth Mildwater, CEO of the Greater Cities Commission (GCC), presented on the establishment of the Commission and the outcomes of the [industrial lands policy review](#). FTAC members acknowledged and recognised the significance of this work and wholly supported the draft guiding principles. It was agreed that the loss of industrial land is having a significant impact on the freight industry's ability to operate, invest and grow, which has a direct consequence on state competitiveness, and constrains the ability to operate productively and sustainably. Influencing planning policy and decision-making was tabled as a priority for upcoming agendas. FTAC will look to continue to engage with the GCC, including on the recently released [Six Cities Region Discussion Paper](#).

Bianca Slack-Smith, Director of Freight Policy and Regulatory Reform at TfNSW, also attended to consult the membership on the development of a NSW freight emissions policy. Reducing freight emissions is essential

to meeting the NSW Government target of net zero emissions by 2050. Members were provided with insights from industry consultation and the key priorities and actions that are being considered. The membership discussed the importance of consideration being given to road user charges for low and zero emission vehicles. There was also a unanimous view that the policy needs to be seen as an element of a whole of system approach as industry transitions, connecting the dots between policy, infrastructure, operational management and public and private initiatives.

The next meeting of FTAC is on **7 November 2002**.

Ministerial attendance

- Hon. Sam Farraway – Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

Member attendance

- Hon. Duncan Gay, (Chair)
- Andrew Harding, Chair, Freight on Rail Group
- Hermione Parsons, CEO, Australian Logistics Council
- Caroline Wilkie, CEO, Australasian Railway Association
- Craig Carmody, CEO, Port of Newcastle
- Marika Calfas, CEO NSW Ports
- Wade Lewis, President, Livestock Bulk and Rural Carriers Association
- Scott Walker, National Transport Manager, Mondiale VGL
- Rick Dani, Head of Store Delivery, Woolworths Group
- Michael Gallacher, CEO, Ports Australia (Apology)
- Geoff Crouch, Executive Director, Ron Crouch Transport (Apology)
- Paul Digney, Managing Director, Qube (Apology)
- Warren Clark, Chair, NatRoad (Apology)
- Austin Vella, Chair, Road Freight NSW (Apology)
- Les Logue, Vice President Transport – Australia, DHL (Apology)
- Neil Johns, Executive General Manager Strategy & Business Development, Namoi Cotton (Apology)

FTAC Secretariat

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