

24th September 2024

Dr Kerry Schott (AO)
Chair - Independent Panel - NSW Freight Policy Reform
Via: NSW Government 'Hay Your Say Portal'


Dear Dr Schott,

**Re: Freight Policy Reform: Interim Directions Paper
Hay Shire Council Submission**

I refer to the Freight Policy Reform: Interim Directions paper released on the 19th September 2024, as well as the information session presented yesterday online. While Hay Shire Council supports freight industry reform, it has concerns on the scope and breadth of the paper released and makes the following comments:

- The consultation paper appears to be very city centric with little on any regional/rural considerations. While it is acknowledged the bulk of congestion occurs in the metropolitan area, regional and rural communities are not immune to freight restrictions and impacts. First and last mile freight logistic issues need to be considered as part of the freight journey.
- The reform should consider renewable energy transition and the freight movement of moving very large items (wind turbines) from Port to regional NSW. The renewable energy transition has the ability to greatly affect both State and local roads in regional NSW.
- Resilience - It appears the paper does not directly address/comment on transport resilience around the State highways flooding and being closed for long periods of time as experienced in 2022 (sometimes up to in excess of 3 months), isolating communities and restricting freight movement. The pinch points are being mapped at both a regional and State level and should be included in the reform.
- Decarbonisation - the paper seems to not include other decarbonisation transport such as hydrogen as a renewable fuel for Heavy Vehicles. Hay Shire Council has undertaken significant research in hydrogen fuel production distribution for the region and see it will be in place within the next 10 years.

Thank you for considering our submission. Hay Shire Council agrees that reforms that are needed in the NSW freight industry including short, medium and longer-term actions. We look forward to working with the NSW Government to scope and deliver these reforms.



Yours faithfully



David Webb
General Manager