

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

The NSW Freight Transport Advisory Council (FTAC) convened on 1 May 2024 to discuss three significant areas of reform impacting the freight industry:

- NSW Freight Policy Reform Program
- NSW Tolling Review
- Draft Heavy Vehicle Access Policy.

Minister's address / NSW Government Transport Priorities

The Hon. Jo Haylen, Minister for Transport, emphasised the need for a resilient freight sector, essential for sustaining local manufacturing capabilities, improving road safety, and maintaining supply chains vital to our communities. Recent challenges, including natural disasters, have highlighted the importance of collective efforts in keeping our transport networks operational.

Road safety continues to be a priority, with ongoing efforts to address regional road fatalities and enhance enforcement and educational measures.

The recently released Consultation Paper for the Freight Policy Reform Program underscores the NSW Government's commitment to shaping a resilient freight sector in response to emerging challenges and opportunities. There is strong recognition of the need for integrated planning and coordination across the entire freight logistics chain, encompassing roads, rail, ports, and intermodal facilities.

The Minister noted industry submissions will be invaluable in shaping the approach to fostering a sustainable and efficient freight network in NSW. Members were encouraged to share their views on how to drive meaningful change, to ensure that government actions align with industry needs.

NSW Freight Policy Reform Program

Dr Kerry Schott and Dr Hermione Parsons provided an overview of the Consultation Paper released by the Minister for Transport on 18 April 2024. The Consultation Paper delineates guiding principles, the current freight task in NSW, key drivers of change, and strategic issues warranting consideration. Council members raised issues relating to critical shortages in workforce numbers, gaining national coordination and harmonisation, the need for resilient and reliable networks, optimising existing infrastructure and improved data at a national level.

Submissions close on 31 May 2024.

Tolling Review

Professor Allan Fels AO and Dr David Cousins AM led a discussion on industry reform options related to tolling, based on the Interim Report released by the Toll Review. Members discussed potential impacts on freight

movement and employment conditions, and provided commentary on issues including off-peak tolling, consideration of two-way tolling on the Harbour Bridge and the disproportionate impact of the toll multiplier on heavy vehicles. The discussion also covered matters of competition, price regulation and toll caps for frequent users. The final report of the Toll Review is expected to be released in the third quarter of the year.

Draft Heavy Vehicle Access Policy

Transport for NSW presented the draft Heavy Vehicle Access Policy, emphasising its role in optimising the NSW road network for heavy vehicles. Members provided feedback on safety, productivity, and sustainability aspects, aligning with the government's commitment to a coordinated supply chain.

Ministerial attendance

- Hon. Jo Haylen, Minister for Transport
- Helen Machalias, Policy Advisor to Minister for Transport

Member attendance

- Hon. Duncan Gay, Chair NSW Freight Transport Advisory Council
- Hermione Parsons, CEO Australian Logistics Council
- Neil Johns, Executive General Manager Namoi Cotton
- Wade Lewis, President Livestock Bulk and Rural Carriers Association
- Scott Walker, National Transport Manager Mondiale VGL
- Warren Clark, CEO NatRoad
- Andrew Harding, Chair Freight on Rail Group
- Michael Gallacher, CEO Ports Australia
- Alex Claassens, NSW Secretary and National Executive Member, Rail, Tram and Bus Union
- Richard Olsen, NSW State Secretary, Transport Workers Union
- Paul Garrett, Deputy Secretary, NSW (Sydney), Maritime Union of Australia.
- Marika Calfas, CEO NSW Ports
- Caroline Wilkie, CEO Australasian Railway Association
- Rick Dani, Head of Store Delivery Woolworths Group
- Geoff Crouch, Executive Director Ron Crouch Transport
- Austin Vella, Chair Road Freight NSW (Apology)
- Les Logue, General Manager BlueStar Global Express (Apology)
- Paul Digney, Managing Director Qube (Apology)
- Craig Carmody, CEO Port of Newcastle (Apology)

TfNSW Representatives

- Josh Murray, Secretary, Transport for NSW
- Matt Fuller, Deputy Secretary Regional & Outer Metropolitan
- Scott Greenow, A/Executive Director, Freight Branch
- Jen Travis, Director, Customer Engagement and Delivery, Freight Branch
- Bianca Slack-Smith, Director Policy and Regulatory Reform, Freight Branch
- Janine Percy, Senior Manager Policy, Freight Branch

Freight Policy Reform Panel

- Kerry Schott, Chair Independent Advisory Panel
- Hermione Parsons, Member Independent Advisory Panel

Toll Review

- Professor Allan Fels, Chair Independent Toll Review
- Dr David Cousins, Deputy Chair Independent Toll Review
- Rachel Simpson Executive Director, Strategy & Implementation, TfNSW
- Sahar Shahin, Director Tolling TfNSW

FTAC Secretariat

- Angie Francisco, Senior Manager, Freight Branch
- Charith De Silva, Senior Stakeholder Engagement Officer Freight Branch
freight@transport.nsw.gov.au