

MEDIA RELEASE



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South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan Recognises the Economic Importance of Efficient Freight Movement

The Queensland Trucking Association (QTA) today welcomed the South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan detailed today by the Premier Peter Beattie and Deputy Premier and Treasurer Terry Mackenroth. The Association was among the group provided with a detailed briefing on the Transport component of the plan by Queensland's Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads, Hon. Paul Lucas.

Peter Garske, Executive Director of the QTA said "The trucking industry in Queensland and its customers can be well pleased with the acknowledgement of the critical role played by the trucking industry in freight movement, demonstrated by the details of infrastructure planning and investment over the next 20 years."

"Producers, manufacturers, exporters and all Queensland consumers receive an economic benefit from the efficient and productive movement of freight in South East Queensland. Today's announcement identifies priority freight routes and provides initiatives for delivering future freight movement through the protection of freight transport corridors."

The Queensland trucking industry will be keen to engage Minister Paul Lucas and his Transport and Main Roads Agencies on initiatives outlined in the Plan such as new technology, satellite tracking and improved traffic signalling. Of particular importance is the investment in priority freight routes for effective movement of general freight, dangerous goods and over dimensional loads.

"Today's announcement builds on previously approved infrastructure investment e.g. the duplication of the Gateway Bridge, by identifying and improving freight corridors to the north, the south and the west. The trucking industry particularly welcomes

- Early completion of the Tugun Bypass;
- Bruce Highway upgrade;
- Ipswich Motorway investment;
- Metropolitan freight routes; and
- Stage 2 of the Port of Brisbane Motorway.

While the QTA accepts that heavy vehicle freight movement which is not doing business within the industrial areas of the south west of Brisbane, should be encouraged to use the Logan Motorway, the Plan released today clearly identifies the Brisbane Urban Corridor as being a Priority One freight route" said Mr Garske.

"Significant in today's Plan is the expanding capacity of the Acacia Ridge Rail Freight Terminal and increasing capacity of the Rail link to the Port of Brisbane" stated Mr Garske. "The rapidly expanding freight task created by the rapidly expanding population of the South East corner, requires a multi-modal response".

The Queensland Trucking Association calls on the State and Federal Ministers to prioritise the signing of Bi-lateral Agreements to release the Federal Governments AusLink funding to compliment today's State Government infrastructure investment announcement. A critical component is agreement on implementing Higher Mass Limits on the Priority One and Priority Two freight routes to deliver efficiency. In the absence of Higher Mass Limits the industry will need to utilise additional heavy vehicles on the road network to complete the freight task.

"The QTA will be seeking urgent discussions on the expansion of existing Higher Mass Limit routes currently available" said Mr Garske.

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