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2023 Review of the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the review of the National Freight & Supply Chain Strategy.

The Green Triangle Freight Action Plan was developed in 2009 by the South Australian and Victorian Transport Ministers to address freight productivity in the Green Triangle region which spans the South Australia -Victoria border.

The Implementation Monitoring Group was formed to drive and monitor the plan which was evidence based and dominated by export timber flows from the region to the Port of Portland. The plan was updated with a similar approach in 2016 and is scheduled for review in in the current financial year.

The Group includes representation from local industry, particularly the forestry production, processing and transport sector, the port of Portland and local Government, State agencies and Cross Border Commissioners. The Chair function is provided on a two yearly rotation by executives from the South Australian and Victorian transport agencies.

The evidence-based approach has delivered successful funding submissions for targeted infrastructure upgrades, which support ongoing productivity and road safety improvement in the region. Relationships formed through the group materially assisted cross-border connectivity during the pandemic.

Cross-border issues relating to infrastructure investment and High Productivity Vehicle interoperability are a focus of the Group with challenges in workforce flexibility and supporting activities such as training resources requiring ongoing attention by members.

The South Australian segment of the Green Triangle has a critical reliance on the Port of Portland as the key export pathway, highlighting the need for a national focus and support for cross border collaboration to achieve optimal supply chain outcomes.

Increasing demand for the movement of product from the Green Triangle to central Victorian processing facilities has highlighted the importance of improved interstate supply chains.

In response to emerging pull through demand from supply chain customers for decarbonisation of the supply chain we have recently seen the mobilisation of South Australia's first battery powered B-double in Mount Gambier and successful operation to Portland, highlighting the level of collaboration in the region.

In addition to the demand for decarbonised and resilient supply chains in the region, climate change impacts present a particular risk to the forest products sector and supporting supply chains with increased bushfire risk.

The Green Triangle Freight Action Plan Implementation Monitoring Group is supportive of the themes and objectives outlined in the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy. The current review presents an opportunity to review and further define goals to ensure measurable outcomes.

The group would welcome the opportunity to leverage its existing structures and relationships to pilot regional and cross-border supply chain development initiatives.

Russell Troup

Chair

Green Triangle Freight Action Plan Implementation Monitoring Group

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