



MEDIA RELEASE

13 September, 2015

VTA convenes policy briefing for Victorian Opposition

The Victorian Transport Association (VTA) has hosted a transport policy briefing for senior members of the Victorian Opposition as part of its strategy of engaging with political and industry stakeholders to encourage policy that will benefit transport operators and the economy.

Opposition Leader Matthew Guy, Shadow Roads and Infrastructure Minister Ryan Smith and Shadow Ports and Public Transport Minister David Hodgett attended the September 9 briefing, which was hosted by VTA CEO Peter Anderson and attended by a cross-section of senior VTA members.

“The VTA has a long history of working with all sides of politics to ensure they are kept aware of the challenges facing freight and logistics operators, and the policy settings most needed for the industry to overcome them,” Peter Anderson said.

“The opportunity to brief three of the most senior members of the Opposition at the same time was somewhat unique, and we really appreciated Matthew, Ryan and David taking time to hear directly from the industry. We look forward to continuing this positive engagement and informing policy that encourages a vibrant and productive Victorian transport sector.”

During the wide-ranging session, discussion was focussed on the major impediments to Victorian freight and logistics companies at a time when there is significant pressure for operators to cut costs whilst maintaining services.

Traffic congestion, the sale of the port of Melbourne, transport infrastructure, and staff training and development were cited as the key issues and areas where policy reform and improvements could most benefit operators.

“Participants expressed the need for policy that supports industry efforts to attract and retain staff,” Mr Anderson said. “With the average age of drivers steadily increasing, we need to attract and keep young people in our industry, which is where government policy could make a meaningful difference.”

Participants also expressed frustration at lost productivity from freight and transport assets being perpetually stuck in traffic, emphasising the urgent need for major infrastructure to connect Melbourne’s disjointed road network.

“The priority road project for the VTA and many members is the Northern Link between the Eastern Freeway and the Metropolitan Ring Road, which would allow free and unimpeded movement of goods between the north and south east, creating huge productivity improvements,” Mr Anderson said.

The VTA regularly engages with government ministers and shadow ministers on policy matters. Victorian Treasurer Tim Pallas will participate in a VTA Ministerial Breakfast later this month, which will feature discussion about transport infrastructure policy and funding.

Ends...

For further information please contact Brian O’Neil on 0411 055 284.

Victorian Transport Association
PO Box 5, South Melbourne, 3205