



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**19 July, 2016**

## **VTA congratulates Darren Chester and Paul Fletcher on ministerial appointments**

The Victorian Transport Association has congratulated Paul Fletcher and Darren Chester on their appointments and re-appointments to critical ministerial roles in the Coalition Government.

Mr Fletcher was sworn in this morning as Minister to the newly-created Urban Infrastructure portfolio, which will see him continue to work closely with Darren Chester, who was re-appointed and sworn in as Minister for Infrastructure.

"Ministers Chester and Fletcher worked very effectively together during the last sitting of parliament and the VTA welcomes their return to key ministerial roles," said VTA CEO Peter Anderson.

"The continuity of their re-appointments to roles in the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development should not be under-estimated, and is important for freight operators who require certainty in these challenging economic times.

"The creation of the new Urban Infrastructure portfolio is particularly welcome because of rapid population growth in our major urban cities, which will require significant infrastructure planning for new and upgraded road, rail and sea projects to service the additional population of our capital cities.

"The VTA looks forward to working closely with Ministers Chester and Fletcher to help them plan for the transport infrastructure needs of Victorian transport operators, particularly our priority road project, the North-East Link," Mr Anderson said.

Mr Anderson emphasised that the productivity of freight operators needed to be a factor in major road, rail and sea infrastructure decisions under consideration.

"Infrastructure that can deliver better productivity gains and efficiency dividends is essential for prosperity in our industry and the broader national economy," he said.

"It can also improve amenity and safety for those who live in urban environments. Infrastructure that creates better movement of freight on rail or major freeways is also important because it can deliver traffic and congestion reductions, benefiting the whole economy," Mr Anderson said.

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