



**Darren Chester**  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

## **Media Statement**

7 March 2017

### **Better ‘visibility’ could improve freight supply chain**

- **Austroads releases report on improving freight visibility**
- **Adopting visibility technologies would improve supply chain efficiencies**
- **Inquiry into a *National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy* to consider supply chain visibility**

The Australian Government has welcomed an Austroads report on the adoption of advanced technologies to make freight movements more visible from one end of the supply chain to the other.

Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Darren Chester said the findings of Austroads’ report were in line with the Government’s commitment to develop a comprehensive national freight and supply chain strategy.

“Improving the ability of businesses to keep track of freight from the time an item leaves the farm or factory gate until it is delivered, is crucial to improving the operational efficiency of supply chains in Australia,” Mr Chester said.

“To help make this a reality, we will be asking the independent inquiry into the establishment of the *National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy* to consider Austroads’ findings.”

Mr Chester said the report, *Investigating the potential benefits of enhanced end to end supply chain visibility*, involved several major pilot studies examining how the adoption of ‘visibility’ technologies using Global Data Standards (GDS), enables all stakeholders in a supply chain to keep track of freight.

“Austroads’ pilot studies showed that larger transport businesses which have adopted GDS-based technologies effectively build a capability to create connectivity and improve visibility throughout their supply chains,” Mr Chester said.

“This may increase costs over the short-term for smaller transport operators given the complexities of adopting the new GDS-based technologies, but those same operators will definitely see the benefits over the long term.

“The Australian Government is committed to the establishment and work of the inquiry to establish a *National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy*, which is due for completion by December 2017.”

The Minister also thanked GS1 Australia, the Australian Logistics Council Supply Chain Standards Working Group and the Institute for Supply Chain and Logistics for their significant contributions to the development of the report.

The report can be found at: <https://www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/items/AP-R538-17>

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