



The Hon Ray Williams MP

Member for Castle Hill

MEDIA RELEASE

LIBERAL AND NATIONALS TO HELP DRIVE DOWN GROCERY COSTS ACROSS CASTLE HILL

A re-elected Liberal and Nationals Government will appoint a new Supply Chain Commissioner to work closely with industry to unblock supply chains across the state and help drive down the cost of groceries and goods.

The Commissioner will immediately move to establish a freight and logistics taskforce to look at innovative ways to drive down transport costs for goods to get the best deal for families across NSW.

Under the plan, the Commissioner will work closely with the NSW Productivity Commissioner, NSW Agriculture Commissioner and industry to:

- Tackle truck driver shortages by subsidising heavy vehicle course fees by up to \$1,000 for 7,000 people aged under 30, including for new truckies and upgrading existing heavy vehicle licence class holders;
- Ensure the delivery of the Liberal and Nationals' \$300 million Fast Tracking Freight program which will tackle freight pinch points on the road and rail network;
- Drive national reform around packaging to cut red tape and create consistency to reduce packaging costs; and
- Address pinch points at our ports by ensuring goods are checked and cleared faster, reducing storage costs for businesses.

Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams MP said today's announcement was critical to driving down costs for families in the Castle Hill.

"Cost of living is an issue I hear constantly when I am out talking to the community," Mr Williams said.

"That is why the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government is taking the steps to investigate ways we can reduce bottlenecks on our supply chain and ensure goods get from A to B quicker."

Premier Dominic Perrottet said the Liberal and Nationals Government was tackling current supply chain challenges head on in order to help ease family budgets.

"Family budgets across the state are doing it tough, with a perfect storm of global economic pressures driving up the price of food, groceries and everyday goods," Mr Perrottet said.



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“We know that supply chain issues have been one of the biggest contributors to inflation, with the pandemic, war in Ukraine and extreme weather events wreaking havoc on our freight industry.

“That is why we will move quickly to appoint a new Supply Chain Commissioner who will be specifically tasked with finding innovative ways to unblock our supply chains and ensure families get the best deal at the checkout.

“By tackling our supply chain issues head on, we will provide long term relief to families feeling the pinch from rising inflation.

“This is on top of more than \$7 billion already provided by our Liberal and Nationals Government to help ease the pressure on household budgets, which is only possible thanks to our long-term economic plan to keep our state moving forward.”

Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Sam Faraway said boosting the number of truckies will help get produce from farms and factories to our ports and supermarket shelves quicker, meaning lower costs for producers and lower prices for families.

“We know the industry is feeling the pressure from worker and skills shortages especially in our regions, which is in turn putting pressure on our freight and logistics lines and driving up prices,” Mr Faraway said.

“Slashing the cost of heavy vehicle licences courses by up to 50 per cent for people under the age of 30 will allow these young drivers to more easily upskill and upgrade to a Multi Combination licence, which will allow them to drive bigger trucks like road trains and b- doubles, and will help tackle driver shortages.

“The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government is already getting on with the job of upgrading key supply chain routes like our major highways and rail freight lines.

“This is about testing the efficacy and streamlining the process of what currently takes place outside of the farm gate to make life easier for households now and into the future.”

If re-elected, the Liberal and Nationals Government has also committed \$300 million to Fast Track Freight by tackling freight pinch points and improving the capacity and resilience of the road and rail network.

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