



Collaborative Approach to Central Highlands' Freight Task

New research is expected to bolster support for more road and rail upgrades in the Central Highlands to cut freight times and costs.

The Central Highlands Freight Task Analysis Survey has found close to 48 percent of respondents export goods and materials from the region and 62 percent import goods and materials to the region.

Furthermore, 51 percent of the exporters identified challenges with freight options including schedules, infrastructure and ineffective costs of small loads.

The survey was conducted in June 2020 by the Central Highlands Development Corporation (CHDC) in conjunction with Central Highlands Regional Council (CHRC) and CQ Inland Port (CQIP).

The survey results will help build a case for further investment in infrastructure and services to provide for more cost effective and efficient supply chains.

“The data demonstrates a significant demand to improve logistics connectivity for freight in and out of the Central Highlands,” CHDC Business and Investment Attraction Manager Peter Dowling says.

“This demand is only going to increase when you consider freight volumes in Australia are projected to grow by more than 35 percent between 2018 and 2040, according to the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy.”

CQIP Project Director Kevin Doggett congratulated CHDC and CHRC on the survey and the benefits it will provide in advocating for further support from State and Federal Governments.

“The survey was further confirmation of a detailed study completed in 2015 by the Department of Main Roads and Transport that quantified freight imported and exported to and from the region and opportunities for supply chain savings using a multi-modal approach,” Mr Doggett says.

“CQ Inland Port looks forward to working with local business in developing the intermodal terminal operation and ensuring that local business can take advantage of reduced supply chain costs.”

The data has value-added to a larger Central Queensland and Wide Bay Burnett Transport Analytics project, which is foundational work to better understand transport across regions. This project has engaged the CSIRO with the use of their Transport Network Strategic Investment Tool (TraNSIT).

The survey attracted 147 responses. The major responders by industry were 40.1% Agriculture, 12.9% Retail, 8.8% Manufacturing/Processing, 8.2% Transport, 7.5% Mining, 6.8% Construction with 12.2% Other.

Key findings:

Exports:

- 47.6% of businesses export goods and materials from the Central Highlands.
- 43% of businesses export goods to an international market.
- 70% of freight exported is full container loads (FCL).
- 51% of businesses that export identified challenges with freight options including schedules, infrastructure and ineffective costs of small loads.

Imports:

- 62% of businesses import goods and materials into the Central Highlands.
- 59% of businesses import goods by road, 28.5% import by rail and air.
- 48% of businesses import goods that travel through a shipping port.
- 29.6% of businesses that import cite cost as a barrier or challenge to changing transport type.

More details on the survey results can be found at chdc.com.au.

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EDITOR'S NOTES:

For more information, contact CHDC Media Officer Nicky Fisher on 0414 360 697 or nfisher@chdc.com.au. Hi-res image can be found in Dropbox [here](#).



CAPTION: Freight infrastructure at the fore with works progressing at CQ Inland Port.