

Logistics challenges aired at local Forum MARCH 2017

The first meeting of the Forum for 2017 was held in mid-March at TrendPac's manufacturing facility in Berkeley Vale and saw almost fifty people attend. The meeting began with each participant speaking about the current challenges they were facing in their logistics area. The group was made up of distribution and warehousing companies, manufacturers along with representatives from the NSW Department of Industry, the Federal Government Entrepreneurs' Programme and Central Coast Industry Connect (CCIC).

Issues raised covered a broad spectrum of areas and had a high level of commonality whether the business was large or small. The engagement within the group was very positive with discussion and questions that started prompting possible opportunities to pursue. The aim of the session was to flush out the issues and develop a priority list to be worked through in subsequent meetings.

Some of these challenges and opportunities identified were:

- Import/ Export –
 - Cost-saving opportunities outside of freight costs in the areas of Tariff and duty concessions.
 - Freight costs for moving containers from the Coast to port are exceptionally high when compared with other Sydney fringe locations.
 - Freight forwarders –inconstant standards of service and local availability.
- General Freight
 - Smaller consignments of freight are delivered via Sydney adding lead time to loads.

- Use of Freight Brokers or online freight Apps – an opportunity for smaller consignments.
- Freight rates to WA - opportunities for rail consolidation
- Can we consolidate freight as a region to get better rates?
- Back loading of empty trucks to get better rates
- Logistics providers
 - Difficulty in maintaining staff.
 - Truck drivers – ageing workforce and difficult to get young drivers.
 - Optimising fleet utilisation.
- Other opportunities
 - Government red tape and Infrastructure.
 - Use of Technology – freight, customer, forecast management.
 - Information sharing

Following the formal meeting, the group was hosted to a site tour of the TrendPac facility.

The Central Coast Logistics Forum is organized by Forsythes Recruitment and the NSW Department of Industry and is supported by Central Coast Industry Connect.

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