

Urban Logistics Laboratory



The Urban Logistics Laboratory offers a forum for in-depth discussion and rigorous research, in collaboration with industry and government, on issues relevant to supply chains, logistics and transport in and around cities, to inform the decisions of industry and policy makers.

Research at Deakin University's Centre for Supply Chain and Logistics (CSCL) strategic focus is on industry engagement and impact, in its core areas of urban and regional freight transport and logistics, food and agriculture and talent and capability. CSCL's research takes place through its Laboratories, a model based on that used in MIT's Centre for Transportation and Logistics, adapted by CSCL to leverage engagement with all stakeholders. The model is unique in Australia – a triple helix with academe, industry and government working together to address the difficult issues that no single agency or institution can address alone.

The Urban Logistics Laboratory conducts applied research on issues relevant to supply chains, logistics and transport in and around cities, to inform the decisions of industry and policy makers. Many changing factors are considered in our analysis, such as rapid urbanisation, evolving consumer demands, emerging technologies, and varying channels of production and distribution, among other economic, social, and environmental challenges facing public and private sectors.



The Advisory Panel and Strategic Partners

The Laboratory receives advice and guidance on its strategic direction, research focus, and activities from an Advisory Panel. This Panel is composed of an external Champion, a few select members of CSCL and Deakin, and a small number of Strategic Partners who are prominent members of industry or government. The Chair of the Urban Logistics Laboratory is Paul Graham, Chief Supply Chain Officer, Woolworths Group.

The Strategic Partners help establish and advance the Laboratory's research agenda, and may point out research opportunities, or provide access to data, information, research, facilities, or technologies of interest.

The Advisory Panel holds two meetings each year, to help steer the Laboratory through its development. Participation in the meetings can be face-to-face, or via teleconference. Strategic Partners receive certain benefits, such as access to CSCL's reports or publications (subject to confidentiality constraints), and free participation in events organized by the Laboratory.

The Laboratory held its first Urban Logistics Forum in 2020, on the topic of 'Urban logistics during and after the COVID-19 pandemic'. The Forum showcased key presentations from the perspectives of several organisations, including presentations from Australia Post, Transport for NSW, and Woolworths Group.

These were followed by a Panel on 'Case studies in urban logistics during the pandemic', with presentations about Toll, Bestrane and Coates Hire, with a period of questions and answer with the audience. A series of articles based on the Forum are now being prepared, capturing the impact of the pandemic on urban logistics, the challenges it has created, what measures were taken and what remains to be done.

Supply chain and logistics in a changing world

The future of urban logistics has changed. Every industry, business and household in Australia depends on supply chain and logistics for the organisation and delivery of goods and services, to ensure quality and create the cost efficiencies crucial to company success and customer satisfaction.

Contact us

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Rapid growth in population, the impact of digital change, and changing consumer expectations have brought new challenges to logistics and supply chains globally. COVID-19 has focused attention on how fragile global and national supply chains can be, shaking assumptions that have underpinned global trade for decades. Freight logistics has been declared an essential service, and supply chain resilience is now recognised as critical to our future.

Envisioning the post-COVID future of urban logistics

A year ago, a conversation about the future of urban logistics would have revolved around the long-term impact of factors such as population growth, climate change, and new technologies. Today, in a world transformed by COVID-19, there is a more immediate need to understand the new challenges facing urban logistics in the near and mid-term future to bring to the movement of freight and the flow of supply chains into, out of and through urban areas after the pandemic.

We are currently conducting a research project on this topic, which will also explore innovative solutions that are possible through collaboration of government, communities, and industry.

If you are interested in supporting this initiative, please contact us today!

For further information, please contact:

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