

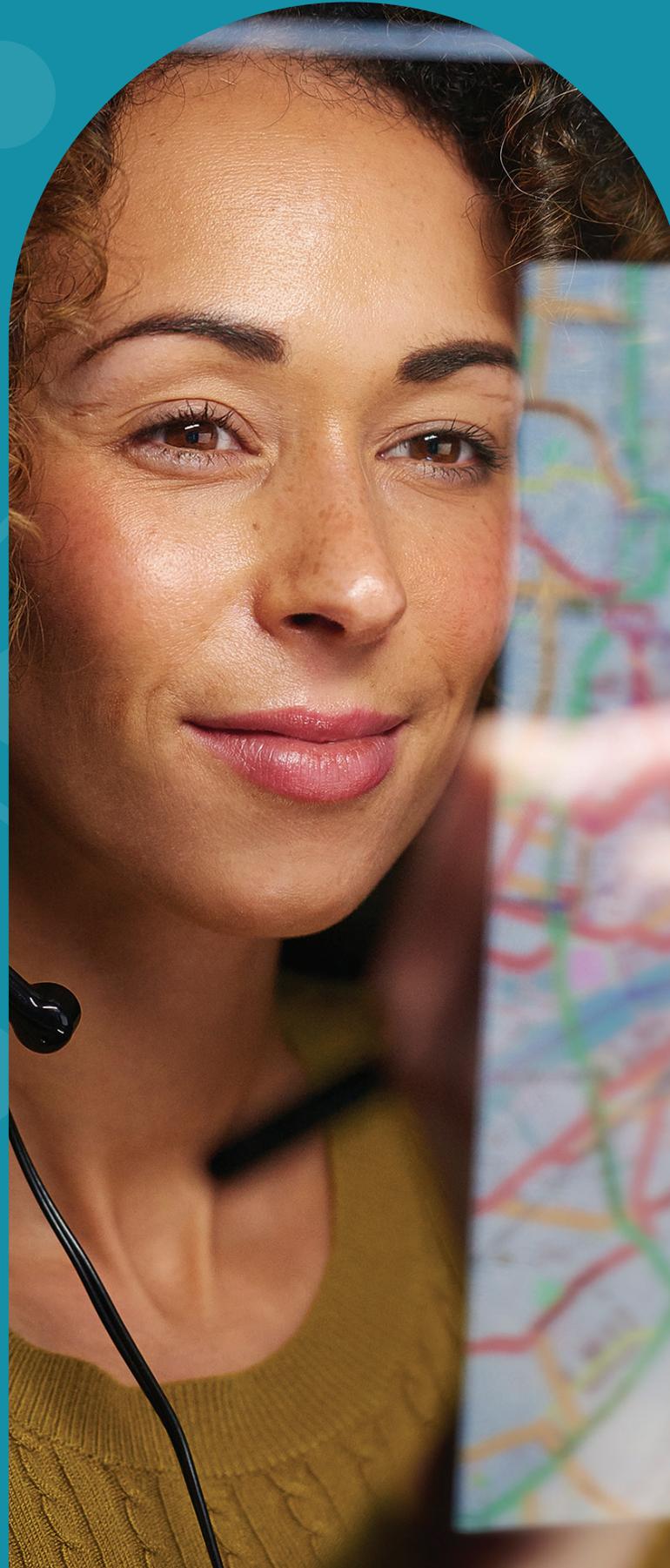
Envisioning the post-COVID future of urban logistics



The future of urban logistics has changed. 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.

The old challenges have not gone away: new technologies are still knocking at the door, populations are still growing in urban centres, and environmental pressures are still in play. But now we must address a whole new set of uncertainties around how our communities and workplaces, the economy and society at large may transition - over the next three, five, and ten years - into whatever the 'new normal' may be.

This problem has been identified by Deakin University's Centre for Supply Chain and Logistics (CSCL), and endorsed by the industry members of its Urban Logistics Laboratory, as the most urgent and complex issue faced by urban logistics today.



CSCL has a proven record of delivering high-stakes projects to industry and government, including the scenario planning project to inform the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy. Its Urban Logistics Laboratory was established in partnership with industry to address the complex supply chain issues that no single company, government department or organisation can address on their own. Both the Laboratory and CSCL enjoy extensive support and input from captains of industry.

The Chair of the Urban Logistics Laboratory is Mr Paul Graham (Chief Supply Chain Officer of Woolworths Group). The Laboratory Lead is Dr Roberto Perez-Franco, Senior Research Fellow at CSCL, and former Director of the Supply Chain 2020 Project at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Other members of the Laboratory represent different key sectors of Australia's supply chain and logistics networks, as well as innovators from industry and government.

The Laboratory's first research project, focused on envisioning the post-COVID-19 future of urban logistics, will anticipate the challenges and opportunities the near and mid-term future could bring to the movement of freight and the flow of supply chains into, out of and through urban areas after the pandemic. It will also explore innovative solutions that are possible through collaboration.

Anticipating the urban logistics challenges of the post-COVID future is possible through the participation of government, communities and industry

The first project of CSCL's Urban Logistics Laboratory will envision the future of urban logistics over the next three, five and ten years. The project will:

- Anticipate potential challenges and opportunities for freight and supply chains in urban areas in the post-COVID future, and
- Identify and explore areas of priority and potential actions that companies and cities can pursue, independently and in collaboration.

Contact us

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The project will begin by looking at the possible ways in which a transition out of the pandemic might take place over the next few years, in terms of the way we live and work in cities, and the way we create, move, deliver and consume goods. This exploration will consider different possible paths for this transition subject to the major uncertainties, including the time for widespread availability of an effective vaccine against SARS-COV-2 and the impact of the pandemic on the global and Australia's economy.

We will study evidence-based reports, and conduct exploratory interviews with industry, government and community stakeholders and thought leaders. The potential paths for that transition, and the different near and mid-term futures that emerge, will be captured in a series of carefully crafted scenarios depicting plausible, yet challenging, versions of the future in 2023, 2025 and 2030.

These scenarios will serve as the basis for a series of workshops with hand-picked captains of industry and thought leaders from government and community. The workshops will be held remotely, and some will focus on specific areas of interest. Their aim will be to identify priorities for collaboration and potential actions for better urban logistics in Australia in that period.

We are looking for sponsorship from industry and government for this important partnership project

Three leading Australian companies (Woolworths Group, Coca-Cola Amatil and QUBE Holdings) have already committed funds to sponsor this important project. Additional sponsors are needed. Sponsor organisations will receive some exclusive benefits, including early access to the scenarios and to preliminary findings, and a dedicated, customised scenario workshop. If you are interested in supporting this initiative, please contact us today!

