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ECL is a freight brokerage company offering all the services of a transport business and much more.

While getting the goods of its clients from one place to another is the focus of the business, ECL offers a number of other services that limit the workload of its clients.

Not only are all the goods monitored throughout their journey to keep clients up-to-date with their progress, but because ECL buys bulk space through its business partners, the company always has extra space available. This means that clients never need to look elsewhere for their transport needs.

Buying bulk space also means the company is able to offer extremely competitive rates.

Housekeeping with Alastair Mathews

Proof of delivery

When requesting a "Proof of Delivery" please advise if you require this urgently, so ECL staff can act on your request in a timely manner. Otherwise all other POD queries will be actioned within a 24-36 hour period.

ECL bookings

When making a booking with ECL Operations, please make sure that you provide the following details:

- Pick up details
- Delivery details
- ECL consignment note
- Weight/cubic and number of items
- Express or economy service required
- Any other special instructions
- Reference numbers/job reference

Or if it is more convenient, you can email a copy of the details to operations@expresscargo.co.nz or fax them to 0800 432 532



Express Cargo News

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Staff changes as Wayne Pickering returns

After the complications following his bypass surgery, Wayne Pickering has returned to work on a four days a week basis.

did a great job while I was out of circulation during my operation and subsequent complications. He's been

covered. Mike has done a great job for us since he joined the company earlier this year."

"The good news is that my heart is in great form, but I will have some discomfort for up to two years because of the nerve damage that was sustained during the operation," he says.



Despite these changes, Mr Pickering will still be playing a major role in the future of ECL.

"I'm committed to getting back into my work, but I will also follow the doctor's orders and take the time to exercise and relax. My first aim is to get my golf handicap down to 18 by Christmas."

with me since the first day ECL opened its doors and there would be no-one more qualified than him to stair the ship," says Mr Pickering.

He will focus more on looking after the finances of the business, but also wants to get out more to meet the clients and suppliers.

The elevation of Alastair Mathews to the role of General Manger will give Mr Pickering the time to step back a bit.



"I've had a new lease of life and want to get back into it. I want to get out there and see what we can do to help make things easier for our clients," he says.

"Alastair has always been more than capable, and

"And now that we have Mike Mountford on board as Alastair's right hand man, he can take some of the load off Alastair as he delves into some of the areas I have always

"Customer service has always been a priority for us, and I haven't been out to see them for some time for obvious reasons."



Express Cargo Limited
General Manager
Alastair Mathews

Alastair Argues - RUC increase

The recent increase in road user charges is the latest policy in a long line to hit the trucking industry hard in the pocket.

Last year the government increased RUCs without giving notice to the industry.

When it was explained to them what impact that lack of notice would have, they agreed to give warning next time.

But that promise was broken as Transport Minister Annette King recently announced that the latest increase

would come into effect the following morning.

The government seems to have a lack of respect for the businesses that cart freight by road in New Zealand.

But even with this, they seem to ignore the effect it has on the businesses that rely on the trucking industry to offer competitive rates to cart their goods.

The RUCs are just one example. The government has recently taken money out of the pockets of trucking operators and given it

directly to their competitors in coastal shipping.

If this happened in any other industry, there would be an outcry.

With the buying back of the rail network, the government now seems set to make it more difficult for the industry.

But in the end, all that will do is increase the cost of carting freight, whether by rail or road.

This can only be bad news for an economy that is already in bad shape.

RUC increase preventing drop in the VCR

The recent increase in road user charges has prevented ECL from dropping its VFR, says ECL General Manager, Alastair Mathews.

"The fuel price has dropped a bit lately and we would like to have dropped the VFR as a result, but the recent increase in RUCs has balanced it all out," he says.

"Another factor affecting

this is that diesel has only dropped in price by about half as much as petrol has before tax."

If the fuel price had not dropped over the last few weeks, the RUC change would have seen ECLs service providers up their rates.

"That would have given us no choice but to pass them on, but thankfully we haven't had to do that yet," says Mr

Mathews.

The RUC increase was implemented by the government over night, leading to massive protests throughout the country by trucking operators.



A difficult few months for Chris Pickering

It has been a tough time lately for Chris Pickering as she has been more of a nurse to husband Wayne than Customer Services Representative for ECL.

"It's been very stressful since he had his heart attack in November and particularly so when the doctors could not find out why Wayne was experiencing so much pain after his operation," she says.

Mrs Pickering was by Wayne's bedside most of the time and got very little sleep herself throughout the whole episode.

"I had to be on the ball all the time, especially regarding his drugs. Because he was on the drugs all the time, he was in no position to even know what he was taking, so this responsibility fell to me," she says.

Understandably, Mrs Pickering was relieved when they finally found out what was causing all the pain.

Following Wayne's 21 days in hospital, the couple took a well earned break in Cairns and Sydney.

"I was a bit apprehensive about going away so soon, but it was great to be able to relax and no longer live on adrenalin," Mrs Pickering concludes.



Chris Pickering

\$26 million assistance increase for local authorities

Local authorities will receive an additional \$26 million in funding assistance from the government to support a range of land transport activities and projects, Transport Minister Annette King has announced.

As part of the 2008/09 National Land Transport Programme, the funding will see about \$10 million

go towards a new initiative, the Targeted Community Fund, to provide assistance to address unmet transport needs in communities with a high level of socio-economic deprivation.

Another \$11 million will go toward supporting regional council activities in developing three-year regional land transport

programmes, studies and strategy development, asset management planning, bus and ferry facilities and infrastructure.

"The funding also recognises the greater importance of regional transport planning under the Land Transport Management Amendment Act," Ms King concludes.

National announces its new infrastructure plan

A 20-year National Infrastructure Plan and a Minister of Infrastructure will be used by a National-led government to help set a clear direction for this vital area of investment, says National Party Leader John Key.

"Right now, we have a significant infrastructure deficit. The result is poor productivity and increased pressure on inflation and interest rates. This deficit

spans from our roading network through to our energy supply," says Mr Key.

"Nor is the problem limited to central government. Over the next decade local government will face an infrastructure deficit of some \$30 billion.

Mr Key says National believes building better infrastructure is essential to fuelling

higher levels of non-inflationary economic growth for years to come.



John Key