

John Anderson
Inland Rail Implementation Group Chair
Media Statement – 30 October 2014

Inland Rail – listening to the Logistics Industry

AUSTRALIA'S leading freight forwarders, rail operators, peak bodies, state government agencies and local councils met in Sydney on Friday 17 October to help finalise the service offering for the Australian Government's Inland Rail freight project.

Inland Rail will connect Brisbane to Melbourne via regional south east Queensland, inland New South Wales and rural Victoria.

The service offering details what Inland Rail will deliver - a road-competitive service based on transit time, price and reliability, intended to prompt freight forwarders to take more Melbourne to Brisbane freight off the road and put it on rail.

The Australian Government has committed \$300 million to Inland Rail, directing the Australian Rail Track Corporation to deliver pre-construction activities such as detailed corridor planning, environmental assessments, community consultation, and commencing land acquisition.

Chair of the Australian Government's Inland Rail Implementation Group, former Deputy Prime Minister, John Anderson, said the meeting with key stakeholders was extremely productive.

"The Implementation Group, which had its latest meeting on 24 October, welcomed the feedback from the logistics industry. The service offering is a key part of the information that will be provided to the Australian Government in December to enable them to make further investment decisions. Having Australia's major freight forwarders and rail users on board is critical to the success of the programme."

"The rail operators and service providers present at the forum gave valuable insights into additional services that they might use, such as a premium express service from Melbourne to Brisbane for time sensitive freight."

Mr Anderson stressed the importance of an efficient, reliable rail freight link between Melbourne and Brisbane for Australia's economic competitiveness.

"Investment in transport infrastructure is critical to reducing our cost base and making our industries more competitive," Mr Anderson said.

"Inland Rail will deliver modern infrastructure that reduces the cost of congestion in our cities, invigorates our regions and connects our farms and mines to export ports. Inland Rail will also play an important role in enabling the efficient movement of manufactured goods between capital cities".

“By making the Inland Rail a priority now, we are putting in place an alternative freight route that will be able to meet the future demands of moving freight along the east coast.”

[ENDS]

Media Contacts

For Mr Anderson:

Bas Bolyn - 0477 340 658