

# DEAR PRIME MINISTER NOW IS THE TIME TO INVEST IN INLAND RAIL

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The good news is that freight volumes on Australia's east coast are set to soar – doubling by 2030 and tripling by 2050. This increase in economic activity will be great for Australian families and businesses in generating income and jobs, but also presents significant challenges for the nation.

**Inland Rail is the smart solution to these freight challenges, and the best time to build it is now.**

The road transport sector is essential for this country and will remain so, but rail has a much greater contribution to make in society as a whole, reducing pressure on our existing road infrastructure, essential services and the environment.

Around 80 per cent of freight moving between the east and west coasts of Australia travels on rail. This is a highly productive, cost-effective and low emission service. Today, only around 30 per cent of freight moving between Melbourne and Brisbane travels by rail. Building the Inland Rail is a huge opportunity for this country.

**We commend you for allocating \$300 million to make a serious start on this vital project. We believe it is time for governments to take the next step to finish the job.**

For Australia to capitalise on its global opportunities we need to ensure we have transport infrastructure that efficiently links together all elements of the supply chain. Inland Rail with the appropriate freight terminals in Melbourne and Brisbane will achieve this, completing a world class national rail freight network and connecting our major capital cities, farming regions, mines and export ports.

**When complete, Inland Rail will:**

- » Move freight more efficiently by reducing train transit times and transport costs that impact the affordability of everyday household items;
- » Provide a reliable rail transport alternative for agriculture and mining freight, improving the global competitiveness of our key exports;
- » Reduce the productivity impacts of road and rail congestion that will cost Australia more than \$20 billion annually by 2020;
- » Take a fair share of the freight burden, reducing the environmental impact of the freight task, and
- » Connect all of our mainland capital cities with a world class rail network that will provide the backbone for moving goods across the country.

Prime Minister, as your Government considers the business case for Inland Rail over the coming months, we urge you to consider the point that we have raised today, and invest accordingly.

**Your decision to provide full construction funding for Inland Rail will create new jobs and have a transformative impact on Australia's supply chain for generations to come.**

Sincerely,

