

MEDIA RELEASE

Port of Melbourne Rail Project Will Boost Supply Chain, Jobs

The <u>Australian Logistics Council</u> (ALC) has welcomed today's <u>confirmation</u> by the <u>Port of Melbourne</u> that its \$125 million Port Rail Transformation Project (PRTP) is set to proceed.

"Moving more freight by rail can deliver a range of potential benefits for industry participants, for exporters and for local communities. The construction of new on-dock rail infrastructure at Swanson Dock East will help to realise those benefits," said ALC CEO Kirk Coningham.

"Of course, the development of significant new freight infrastructure such as that now being progressed by the Port of Melbourne will also help stimulate economic and employment growth, which will be vital in helping Australia to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic."

"The PRTP will improve congestion around the Port of Melbourne, which is critical for logistics companies moving freight into and out of the port, and also for improving the liveability of nearby residential communities."

"The PRTP will also help agricultural exporters moving their goods through the Port of Melbourne by reducing their 'last mile' costs."

"As ALC has previously noted, it will also be crucial for the Federal and Victorian Governments to work cooperatively to preserve corridors and make investments that will also permit Webb Dock to be connected to Victoria's rail freight network."

"Investment in on-dock rail solutions will be critical to improving the efficiency of Australia's supply chains. The Port of Melbourne's project is a welcome contribution to ongoing national efforts to construct more on-dock rail, including works that have been **commenced** by NSW Ports and Patrick Terminals at Port Botany."

ENDS

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