



Torrens Junction Announcement Good for East West Freight

Today's confirmation that the Federal Government will shortly call for expressions of interest to deliver the Torrens Junction upgrade in South Australia is a boost to the efficiency of east-west rail freight movements.

"The existing Torrens rail junction represents a productivity constraint on the Adelaide to Melbourne rail freight line and I welcome the Government's steps to address this issue," said Michael Kilgariff, ALC Managing Director.

"This is a nationally significant freight route and needs to be operating at peak efficiency to support Australia manufacturers, exporters and primary producers.

"Two of the keys to improving the efficiency of east-west freight movements are moving more freight per train, and eliminating unnecessary delays along the railway line.

"Separating the freight and passenger lines, and enabling 1800-metre freight trains to operate between Adelaide and Melbourne, will improve rail freight productivity and is welcomed by the logistics industry," he said.

Mr Kilgariff said that while currently some trains up to 1800 metres in length can operate between Melbourne and Perth, Torrens Junction has remained a constraint for longer trains to operate in the opposite direction.

The Government is seeking expressions of interest to separate the rail corridors at the Torrens Junction and adjacent road and rail level crossing on Adelaide's Inner Ring Route.

The Torrens Junction project builds on previous work completed at Goodwood Junction separating freight from passenger services, and five loop extensions (to 1800m) currently being completed between Adelaide and Melbourne.

"Taken in conjunction with the Government's announcement to boost inland rail funding by more than half a billion dollars, it has been a positive week for Australia's rail freight sector, and our efforts to improve the efficiency of our national supply chains.

"It also represents a growing recognition that any new approach to moving people should not be at the expense of supporting supply chain projects to move freight," he concluded.

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