

MEDIA RELEASE

Port Botany Rail Duplication a Boon for Freight Efficiency

The [Australian Logistics Council](#) (ALC) has welcomed today's announcement that next week's Federal Budget will contain \$300 million to duplicate the freight rail line from Port Botany to Enfield as a major step forward for enhanced supply chain efficiency.

The funding forms part of an intergovernmental agreement signed in Parkes, NSW today between Ministers representing the Federal and NSW Governments. The agreement is a seminal moment in the progress of the Inland Rail project that will form the backbone of the nation's supply chains in the years ahead.

"ALC has been [calling for](#) the duplication of the freight rail line at Port Botany, as part of the Inland Rail project, for a significant period of time. It was again identified as an urgent priority in ALC's [2018-19 Commonwealth Budget Submission](#), and it is very pleasing that the Federal Government has now come to the party," said ALC Managing Director, Michael Kilgariff.

"Improving freight rail links into Australia's major ports and boosting the use of short-haul rail from ports to intermodal terminals is essential in the drive to enhanced supply chain efficiency and safety, as outlined in [Freight Doesn't Vote](#), ALC's major submission to the [Inquiry Into National Freight and Supply Chain Priorities](#)."

"Currently, around 444,000 TEU per year moves to and from Port Botany by rail, and this continues to grow. Duplicating the freight rail line at Port Botany will allow NSW Ports to realise its objective of moving 3 million TEU annually by rail over the long term."

"Ensuring efficient freight rail linkages to our ports and intermodal terminals is another critical piece of the Inland Rail puzzle, if we are to reap the full economic and efficiency benefits from the substantial public investment being made in the project," Mr Kilgariff said.

"Today's announcement represents another significant milestone in the development of the Inland Rail project, and the NSW Government's participation in this process is especially welcome, as is the continued cooperation of the Victorian Government."

"Likewise, the recent announcement of a [study](#) jointly funded by the Federal and Queensland Governments to enhance the connection of Inland Rail to the Port of Brisbane demonstrates that after decades of talk, jurisdictions are now working cooperatively to make Inland Rail a reality."

"The vital economic importance of the Inland Rail project and its benefits for freight operators, consumers and regional communities will be fully explored at the [Inland Rail Conference](#) being jointly hosted by ALC and the [Australian Railway Association](#) in Parkes NSW on 18-19 July 2018," he concluded.

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