

## MEDIA RELEASE

# Inland Rail Conference Set to Deliver the Goods

More than 350 delegates are set to arrive in Parkes NSW over the next 24 hours to take part in the [Inland Rail Conference 2018](#), being jointly presented by the **Australian Logistics Council (ALC)** and the **Australasian Railway Association (ARA)** on **18 & 19 July 2018**.

Inland Rail is a nationally significant transport initiative that will transform Australia's freight networks, enhancing supply chain efficiency and safety, boosting the nation's export competitiveness and unlocking regional development and employment opportunities for local communities.

Supported by Gold Sponsor, the **Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC)** as well as the **Parkes Shire Council**, this [two day event](#) features keynote presentations from leading political figures, as well as panel sessions featuring representatives of some of Australia's leading companies that will explore all aspects of the historic Inland Rail project.

Delegates will hear **keynote addresses** from leading political figures and project executives, including:

- **The Hon. Michael McCormack MP**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
- **The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP**, Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development
- **The Hon. Melinda Pavey MP**, NSW Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight
- **John Fullerton**, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Australian Rail Track Corporation
- **Richard Wankmuller**, Chief Executive Officer, Inland Rail Project, Australian Rail Track Corporation

The conference will also involve discussions that address particular elements of the Inland Rail project, featuring high-profile panellists drawn from some of Australia's leading corporate, government, research and industry organisations.

"The Inland Rail Conference 2018 is an innovation – the first truly industry-led event that will examine the opportunities Inland Rail offers from a variety of perspectives, including customers, rail and port operators, suppliers, manufacturers and regional communities," said **Michael Kilgariff**, Managing Director, Australian Logistics Council.

"We will also be highlighting the important role that the Inland Rail will play in the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy, now being developed by the Commonwealth Government. This includes investing in complementary freight infrastructure, including connections to ports and intermodal facilities that will enhance national supply chain efficiency and safety."

"Inland Rail is far more than building a railway line. It is about modernising our freight networks, creating new economic and employment opportunities, and ensuring Australian producers and exporters can compete effectively in international markets," said **Danny Broad**, Chief Executive Officer, Australasian Railway Association.

“This conference is an invaluable chance to explore the opportunities that Inland Rail presents to businesses and local communities, such as the ability to move freight on rail between Melbourne and Brisbane in under 24 hours, reduce freight costs for customers and reduce congestion on our roads.”

“With major construction about to begin, ARTC is getting on with the job of delivering Inland Rail in partnership with the private sector, hand-in-hand with the community and with the support of Government. This multibillion dollar investment will benefit all Australians and transform the movement of freight across the nation,” noted **John Fullerton**, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Australian Rail Track Corporation.

“The Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail will be the critical backbone of transport and logistics, driving our nation's global competitiveness into the future. We look forward to welcoming delegates to Parkes. This is an opportunity for business, industry and government of all levels to start to work together to leverage the strategic advantages that Inland Rail will bring to regional Australia,” said **Cr Barbara Newton**, Deputy Mayor Parkes Shire Council.

“We congratulate Australasian Railway Association and the Australian Logistics Council on their initiative in developing and organising this timely conference.”

Further information regarding the Inland Rail project is available [here](#).

Full details regarding the conference agenda can be viewed [here](#).

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