

MEDIA RELEASE

CSIRO Study Highlights Supply Chain Benefits of Inland Rail

The [Australian Logistics Council \(ALC\)](#) has welcomed the release of a CSIRO pilot study today that demonstrates there are significant supply chain savings that can be realised through the use of Inland Rail.

“ALC was one of Inland Rail’s earliest and strongest advocates, because we recognise that a growing national freight task will require greater use of freight rail in order to meet expectations around rapid transit times and to help alleviate road congestion,” said ALC CEO Kirk Coningham.

“By 2030, we will need to move more than 32 million tonnes of freight along Australia’s east coast. The construction of a dedicated port-to-port freight rail link is an important aspect of achieving that outcome efficiently and safely, without adding pressures that create bottlenecks in the freight network.”

“The CSIRO pilot study released today focussed on the Parkes to Narromine section of Inland Rail, which is now under construction.”

“Its findings show that there are significant potential cost savings for horticultural and post-processed food products transported via Inland Rail, saving an average of \$76 per tonne compared with road transport, and an average of \$31 per tonne compared with existing coastal rail routes.”

“Reducing freight transit times will have significant flow-on benefits through the whole supply chain – not least of which will be cheaper consumer prices for Australians, whether they live in city centres or the regions.”

“Moreover, addressing freight transit times and costs will be especially important for Australian exporters seeking to capitalise on free trade agreements recently signed with key trading partners across Asia.”

“ALC welcomes the study released today as confirming there are national economic benefits that can be derived from the construction of Inland Rail. We particularly look forward to seeing the next phases of the CSIRO’s work in this area, which will focus on the larger sections of the Inland Rail corridor up to Toowoomba.”

“The considerable economic and community benefits of Inland Rail will be further explored when ALC and the Australasian Railway Association host this year’s Inland Rail Conference in Toowoomba on 21-22 August 2019.”

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