

MEDIA RELEASE

Inquiry Must Not Delay Inland Rail Construction

The [Australian Logistics Council](#) (ALC) says that a proposed independent inquiry into Inland Rail announced by the Federal Opposition today must not cause delays to the construction of this much-needed project.

“Bipartisan support for Inland Rail has been a key feature of the project, and it is crucial that be maintained throughout the next Parliament,” said ALC CEO Kirk Coningham.

“ALC notes that today’s announcement from the Federal Opposition reaffirms their support for Inland Rail, which is welcome. Freight logistics operators and local communities are already making preparations for Inland Rail, and their investment decisions must be respected.”

“The conduct of any proposed inquiry must not be allowed to slow the pace of construction on Inland Rail, which is already underway.”

“We also note the proposed inquiry would be asked to examine possible port connections at either end of the Inland Rail route.”

“ALC has consistently emphasised that finalising a dedicated freight rail connection to the Port of Brisbane as soon as possible will be essential to ensure full benefits can be derived from the substantial public investment being made in Inland Rail.”

“We have also noted that there needs to be a focus on upgrading the current rail connection from Truganina to the Port of Melbourne, as well as on connections from Inland Rail to key NSW ports and intermodal terminals.”

“However, in the event of a change of government, the proposed inquiry should not be a reason for any delay to overall construction of the Inland Rail project.”

“By 2030, we will need to move more than 32 million tonnes of freight along Australia’s east coast. We must find ways to do that which are safe, and which don’t add to road congestion and other existing bottlenecks in the freight network.”

“Inland Rail is essential to achieving these goals – and will play an important role in boosting Australia’s export performance.”

Tuesday, 23 April 2019

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