



# **Regional rail and road networks inquiry**

## ***Public hearings in Canberra***

A parliamentary inquiry examining the operation of regional road and rail networks and the way those networks connect with ports will hold a public hearing at Parliament House, Canberra, tomorrow (12 October).

The House of Representatives Transport and Regional Services Committee, which is conducting the inquiry, will be hearing from the Australian Trucking Association. Committee Chair Paul Neville said that the task for Australia's freight networks is growing rapidly. "A major part of that additional freight is expected to be carried by the trucking industry", he said.

At tomorrow's hearing, the Committee will be seeking to determine how well the regional road networks are prepared to deal with that growth. An important part of the inquiry involves examining how the three levels of government and private enterprise, can work together to ensure that regional infrastructure is able to meet the challenges of the next few years.

"The future ability of the regional transport networks to cope with the freight task will have a vital bearing on the future growth of the Australian economy," Mr Neville said. "The importance of this inquiry can be seen in the fact that over 120 submissions have been received."

The Committee has already visited Queensland, Victoria and the Northern Territory and is planning to conduct more public hearings at important transport centres around Australia over the next few months. It is seeking the widest possible cross-section of views on the matters covered by the inquiry and is continuing to accept submissions. The Committee expects to table its report around the middle of next year.

Members of the public and media are most welcome to attend the public hearing, details of which appear below.

<b>PUBLIC HEARING:</b>	<b>12 October 2005, 9.05 am – 10.15 a.m.</b>
<b>WHERE:</b>	<b>Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra</b>
<b>WITNESSES:</b>	<b>Australian Trucking Association.</b>

For **media comment**, please contact: Paul Neville, House Transport and Regional Services Committee Chair, on (02) 6277 4940 or 0419 704 767

For **background information**, including the full terms of reference and copies of submissions, please contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2352 or visit the Inquiry website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/trs/networks/](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/trs/networks/)