SUBMISSION NO. 6

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House of Representatives Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 Secretary: J. Lutine

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HOUSE OF REPAREMANTALIA LO STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES

Dear Mr Neville

Engineers Australia welcomes the inquiry into the interaction of regional road and rail networks and their connectivity to ports.

Engineers Australia is the peak body for engineering practitioners in Australia and represents all disciplines and branches of engineering with 77 000 members Australia wide. It is the largest and most diverse engineering association in Australia. All members of Engineers Australia are bound by a common commitment to promote engineering and facilitate its practice for the common good.

In recent years Engineers Australia has participated in many processes and undertaken many initiatives of its own which may be of relevance to your inquiry. In particular we would highlight:

- The 2000 and 2001 Australian Infrastructure Report Card a report on the state of the nation's infrastructure.
- The 2003 New South Wales Infrastructure Report Card
- The 2004 Queensland Infrastructure Report Card

These reports provide some commentary on the physical and regulatory issues that apply to the operation of Australia's infrastructure.

Engineers Australia is also undertaking work to produce infrastructure report cards for of Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. It is hoped that these reports will fill the remaining gaps for all governments and other stakeholders to assess what needs to be done. All reports will be finalised in early September 2005.

I would like to draw your attention to the *Australian Infrastructure Report Card*, which shows the state of national infrastructure as rated in the 2000 and 2001 exercises. The gradings (A is best, E is worst) are based on asset condition, availability, reliability management and sustainability.

Table 1 Assessment of National Transport Infrastructure

Infrastructure	2000	2001
Ports	В	n/a
Airports	В	n/a
Telecommunications	В	n/a
Roads - National	C	C
Roads - State	C-	C-
Roads - Local	D	D
Rail	D-	D-

Source: Australian Infrastructure Report Card 2001

The NSW and Queensland reports noted the following:

Category	2004 Qld Grade	2003 NSW Grade	
National Roads	C+	C+	
State Roads	C	C+	
Local Roads	C	C-	
Rail	C+	D	
Ports	В-	Not rated	

I trust these reports will be of some use to you in your inquiry. If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Leanne Hardwicke

Director, International and National Policy

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Attachments:

- The 2000 and 2001 Australian Infrastructure Report Card
- The 2003 New South Wales Infrastructure Report Card
- The 2004 Queensland Infrastructure Report Card