

Committee Introduction

Inquiry into Management of the Inland Rail Project

The Australian Logistics Council welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry into the Management of the Inland Rail Project.

ALC is the peak national body representing major companies participating in the freight and logistics industry. Its policy focus is on delivering enhanced supply chain efficiency and safety.

An inefficient and unproductive national supply chain can ultimately result in lost export income, reduced employment, higher consumer prices and Australia becoming less competitive in the global market.

This is important as Australia is a single national economy.

We will concentrate our remarks on the relationship of the inland rail project to the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy.

ALC acknowledges the significance of the Inland Rail project, as this route will provide better connectivity to primary producers, manufacturers, suppliers, distributors and freight carriers.

The Department of Infrastructure has released a National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy, providing an overarching strategy and framework for the jurisdictions to support investment in the supply chain and ensure that Australia's growing freight needs are met now and into the future. Inland Rail is a critical component of this strategy. ALC hopes that the state and territories adopt planning instruments that will support the efficient operation of this infrastructure. This includes ensuring the development of infrastructure that will facilitate access to the Inland Rail by all major east coast ports including Port Botany.

To that end, ALC has long advocated for the development and adoption of National Urban Freight Planning Principles to ensure integrated planning across jurisdictions that enable the continuous movement of freight. These principles form part of the Strategy. ALC urges the jurisdictions to adopt these Principles so as to facilitate the continuous movement of freight down the Australian freight chain.

ALC once again commends the Commonwealth for prioritising this project and implores that action is taken to ensure the seamless movement of freight from the Port of Melbourne to the Port of Brisbane.

Thank you

