



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 28 July 2006

Chair: Paul Neville MP

Regional rail and road networks inquiry ***Toll Group and QR to attend Sydney public hearing***

A federal parliamentary inquiry examining the operation of regional road and rail networks and the way those networks connect with ports, will hold a public hearing in the James Room at the Sofitel Wentworth Hotel, Sydney, next Tuesday (1 August).

The House of Representatives Transport and Regional Services Committee, which is conducting the inquiry, will be hearing from a number of leading organisations and individuals, involved in the transport industry. Witnesses will include the Toll Group, Queensland Rail and the Railway Technical Society.

Committee Chair Paul Neville said that the volume of freight being moved in Australia is expected to almost double by 2020. The ability of regional transport networks to cope with the increasing load, is now a vital factor in Australia's future economic growth.

"The Committee is examining the capacity of the transport networks and the ports to keep pace with the transport task. It is also seeking ways in which the three levels of government can work together and in co-operation with private enterprise, to ensure that essential infrastructure is provided when and where it is needed," he said.

"The importance of this inquiry can be seen in the fact that over 170 submissions have been received."

The Committee's inquiry is drawing to a close, but it is continuing its efforts to get the widest possible cross-section of views on the matters covered by the terms of reference. Consequently, it is continuing to accept submissions. The Committee expects to table its report towards the end of this year.

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

PUBLIC HEARING: 1 August 2006, 8.30 am – 12.45 p.m.

WHERE: James Room, Sofitel Wentworth Hotel, Sydney.

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.apf.gov.au/house/committee/trs/networks/