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**SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION NO. 178**

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16<sup>th</sup> June 2006

BY: AS

Mr Paul Neville MHR  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Transport and  
Regional Services  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir

The Hunter Area Consultative Committee has now received the transcript of the evidence we presented to your Committee in Newcastle on 30<sup>th</sup> January this year. We are grateful for the opportunity to have presented our views on the key issue of regional transport infrastructure's interface with the Port of Newcastle.

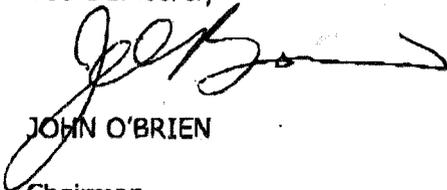
On behalf of the HACC I take this opportunity to specifically reinforce the thrust of our submission and subsequent considerations.

It is the HACC's view that **the principal missing ingredient in the regional transport infrastructure equation, particularly with regard to the interface with ports, is the lack of identified, reserved and acquired corridors. All too often the planning consideration of corridors, and corridors with sufficient capacity for growth, is left until capital funding for construction becomes available.** The result of this approach is often a combination of compromised capacity or endless delays which in consequence has negative impacts on economic growth. Debates about capital works funding priorities will probably always have a degree of short term expediency, but the one immutable thing about transport infrastructure will be the need for arterial corridors.

We earnestly recommend that in formulating your Committee's findings consideration be given to reinvigorating, or where necessary establishing, funding mechanisms that ensure the planning, identification, dedication and acquisition of transport corridors is achieved even in advance of known capital funding. Without the certainty of the corridors national economic growth will forever be compromised. Capital funding for construction, be it public or private, can only follow after the routes are dedicated, and in the increasingly urbanised and semi urbanised coastal zones this represents a challenge of national significance.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Yours sincerely

  
JOHN O'BRIEN  
Chairman

Secretary: J. L...  
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORT AND  
REGIONAL SERVICES

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