



AUSTRALASIAN RAILWAY ASSOCIATION INC

PRESS RELEASE

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28 October 2009

The Rail Industry Praised PM's New Approach to Long-Term Planning

Mr Bryan Nye, CEO of the Australasian Railway Association today commended the Prime Minister's new approach to urban development and infrastructure planning.

Today, the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd announced that the time has now come for the Australian government to take a much greater national responsibility for improving the long-term planning for major cities. The Prime Minister endorsed Sir Rod Eddington's view that efficient and effective transport system is key to reduce congestion, increase national productivity and improve Australians' quality of life.

"Rail is an integral part of the modern transport solution. In order to achieve its maximum potential and effectively respond to the growing transport demand, greater participation from all levels of government in long term transport planning and investment such as this is a must. The industry believes that the all levels of government should work together to ensure that the transport system for the future is sustainable and capable of coping with changing population demographics and the increasing passenger and freight tasks." said Mr Nye.

"Australia requires fully integrated passenger and freight systems that are sustainable and connect all modes in a seamless mix of transport services. The services also need to provide efficient connectivity between cities as well as regional and metropolitan areas. The industry sees that the Commonwealth Government should take the lead on this initiative." continued Mr Nye.

In addition to long-term integrated transport planning, the rail industry is also calling for governments to provide incentives to increase the use of public transport.

"The rail industry is calling for governments to provide incentives to increase the use of public transport. An example of these incentives is tax credits for employers to encourage their employees to commute to their workplaces via public transport.

These mechanisms will lead to greater use of public transport system and subsequently reduce Australia's carbon footprint." said Mr Nye.

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