



AUSTRALASIAN RAILWAY ASSOCIATION INC
Association Number A03958 ABN 64 217 302 489

24 September 2009

Long-Term Public Transport Plan for Sydney
Independent Public Inquiry
GPO Box 249
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission to the Independent Public Inquiry on Sydney's Long Term Public Transport Plan

I refer to the request for submissions to the Independent Public Inquiry on Sydney's Long Term Public Transport Plan. This submission is made by the Australasian Railway Association (ARA) on behalf of its members. The ARA's focus in this submission is the freight system.

Currently, rail freight transport is facing multiple challenges. The first challenge is the ability to meet growing demand not only for intra-city but also for freight movements to ports for overseas export and between cities. The second challenge is congestion and the third is reliability, which significantly affects rail's modal share for freight movements.

By 2020 for Sydney it is estimated¹ that

- population will increase by 11%;
- road freight transport will increase by 34%;
- the costs of congestion will rise by 66% to \$8.3 billion per annum.

The ARA believes that effectively addressing these challenges will increase productivity, sustainability and reliability for the NSW transport system as a whole thereby benefitting the NSW economy, environmental sustainability and social amenity.

The industry believes that there are a number of ways to address these issues effectively. The industry recommends that the NSW government, in collaboration with the Commonwealth government, create an efficient freight transport system by:

- **the construction of dedicated rail corridors for freight;**
- **the establishment of multimodal terminals to facilitate freight movement within and to-and-from Sydney;**

¹ *Estimating Urban Traffic and Congestion Cost Trends for Australian Cities*, Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics, Working Paper 71, Canberra 2007

- **development of a strategic plan for the future of freight including integrated land use and transport planning, and,**
- **development of supporting policies for freight rail such as land banking and land aggregation to provide for future uses such as rail and intermodal terminals.**

The rail industry looks forward to continuing to work co-operatively with the New South Wales Government and the general public on issues relevant to the rail industry.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this issue further, please do not hesitate to contact me or our Director, Transport Policy – Brett Hughes on 02 6270 4508 or bhughes@ara.net.au.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bryan Nye', written in a cursive style.

Bryan Nye
Chief Executive Officer