



PRESS RELEASE

Mr Bryan Nye
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ARA Welcomes Release of the Switchpoint Report

The Australasian Railway Association (ARA) would like to welcome the release of the 'Switchpoint – The template for rail freight to revive and thrive'.

The rail industry through the ARA supports the recommendations contained on the report of the Rail Freight Network Review, led by the Hon Tim Fischer.

Rail is now a watershed point at risk of collapse if substantial and sustained government initiatives are not developed and implemented. We favour the view that sustainability is not just a transport issue but has multiple benefits to Victoria such as the improvement of international competitiveness for agriculture, reduction of road infrastructure costs for state road authorities, support of regional communities, minimisation of environmental consequences; and limiting financial demands to Treasuries and increasing competitiveness.

“We are encouraged to see that the Victorian Government is taking sustainability seriously and very pleased that it has responded positively and quickly with the increase rail transport rebate for grain shipments” said Mr Bryan Nye, CEO of the ARA.

In the current time of reducing fuel availability, and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emission and environmental footprint, rail is an obvious part of the solution for not only transport, but for sustainability in general.

“All governments should follow the direction of the Victorian Government by becoming positively involved in rail transport” Mr Nye said.

As the Victorian Farmers Federation stated in its submission:

"Rail needs to be supported via investment and government policy so that grain industry investment will follow, and strengthen rail's market share."

“We call on the grain industry to commit to using rail for the good of Victoria. Government has made an offer; the industry now needs to accept its role” concluded Mr Nye

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