



Office of the Hon Michael McCormack MP

**Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Leader of The Nationals
Federal Member for Riverina**

Ref: MC19-004357

Mr Ron Ruys

30 SEP 2019

Dear Mr Ruys

Thank you for your email of 11 September 2019 to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon Michael McCormack MP, regarding planning for the Queensland rail network and connections to the Port of Brisbane. The Deputy Prime Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The Deputy Prime Minister appreciates your suggestion for further discussions between Australian and Queensland governments to look at options that best suit commercial viability on the Queensland rail network. In this context, I can assure you that the Australian Government is working closely with Queensland to ensure both freight and passenger needs are considered appropriately.

Inland Rail is a project of national importance. It will transform the way we move freight around the country, connect regional Australia to markets more efficiently, drive substantial cost savings for producers and consumers, and deliver significant economic benefits.

Inland Rail will be linked to the Port of Brisbane from the day it opens, via the existing Brisbane to Sydney line from Acacia Ridge to the Port. There is capacity now on the line to the Port, but we will need to look to a link that supports future freight demand as well as provide benefits to the community.

As you are aware, the Australian and Queensland governments are working together to finalise the joint Port of Brisbane Strategic Rail Access Study assessing the future requirements of a dedicated freight rail link between Inland Rail and the Port.

Thank you for raising this matter and your interest in the Queensland rail network.

Yours sincerely

Damian Callachor
Chief of Staff