



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

House Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities

Inquiry into the Australian Government's role in the development of cities

Issue date: Monday, 12 February 2018

Ticket to ride

Effective public transport is the key to prosperous cities and can be achieved in Australia with the right mix of government intervention according to the [Australasian Railway Association](#) (ARA).

The ARA is scheduled to appear before the [House Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities](#) as part of its inquiry into the Australian Government's role in the development of cities.

It advocates for government intervention to improve Australia's public transport, including:

- city planning centred on transport infrastructure and which is independent from political cycles;
- the expansion and improvement of the existing rail network;
- taxation reform which incentivises the use of public transport over private vehicle use; and
- the preservation of land corridors for future rail infrastructure.

The ARA welcomes the renewed Australian Government focus on cities, but notes the importance of inter-governmental collaboration in city planning.

"It is vital to maximise the flow of movement and improved economic and social benefits that will secure the future prosperity of Australia," the ARA submitted.

"Effective public transport systems are not only vital to the productivity and success of our cities, but also our regional urban centres."

Committee Chair, [Mr John Alexander OAM MP](#), said the committee is considering all possibilities to ease the squeeze on Australian roads.

"Lost productivity due to traffic congestion in our cities costs the Australian economy billions of dollars each year," Mr Alexander said.

"It's a big and complex problem which requires a multi-pronged, proportionately significant response. An expanded rail network is no doubt a critical component."

Public hearing details: 5.00 pm – 6.30 pm, Tuesday, 13 February 2018, Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra

5.00 pm: [Australasian Railway Association](#)

6.30 pm: *Close*

The hearing will be broadcast live at aph.gov.au/live



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Further information on the inquiry, including the full [terms of reference](#), is available on the [Committee website](#).

Media enquiries:

Mr John Alexander OAM MP (Bennelong, NSW), Chair of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities

Brendan Roberts media advisor (02) 9869 4288, john.alexander.mp@aph.gov.au

For background:

House Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities

(02) 6277 2352

itc.reps@aph.gov.au

www.aph.gov.au/itc

Interested members of the public may wish to track the inquiry via the Committee's [website](#). Click on the blue 'Track Committee' button in the bottom right hand corner and use the forms to login to My Parliament or to register for a My Parliament account.