



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 11 September 2006

Chair: Paul Neville MP

Regional rail and road networks inquiry 'Voices' of industry to speak on freight and infrastructure

The National Transport Commission (NTC) and the Australian Logistics Council (ALC) will appear before the House of Representatives Transport and Regional Services Committee at a public hearing in Canberra, Wednesday 13 September.

This hearing concludes the Committee's extensive program of public hearings and inspections for its inquiry into the operation of regional rail and road networks and their connection with ports.

"Industry sources estimate that the national freight task will double within 20 years," says Committee Chair Paul Neville. "The Committee has been examining Australia's ability to meet this challenge."

The NTC works in close partnership with road and rail industries and government agencies to develop practical strategies for land transport report. The ALC is a government and industry partnership to lead the development of logistics in Australia and to achieve continuing improvements in efficiency.

The NTC and the ALC will be appearing together to discuss national transport networks, infrastructure requirements and strategies to improve Australia's capacity to cope with the growing freight demand.

"The Australian economy will suffer, if swift action is not taken to improve existing transport network arrangements, infrastructure and strategic planning," says Mr Neville. "We need commitment and cooperation between industry, the three levels of government and all modes of transport. This will put Australia in a position to maximise economic opportunities and to efficiently manage the growing freight task."

The Committee has received 185 submissions, and will continue to accept submissions for as long as possible, in an effort to get a comprehensive cross-section of views.

Members of the public and media are most welcome to attend this public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING:	Wednesday, 13 September 2006, 9.15 am – 10.30 am
WHERE:	Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra
WITNESSES:	National Transport Commission Australian Logistics Council

For **media comment**, please contact: Paul Neville, House Transport and Regional Services Committee Chair, on (02) 6277 4940 or 0419 704 767

For **background information**, including the full terms of reference and copies of submissions, please contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2352 or visit the Inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/trs/networks/

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