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All enquiries to:  
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9<sup>th</sup> May 2005

The Secretary of the Committee  
Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services  
Parliament of Australia  
House of Representatives

Dear Secretary,

**Re: Inquiry into the integration of regional rail and road freight transport and their interface with ports**

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I forward you a submission from the Bundaberg City Council into the terms of reference to the above inquiry, regarding the capacity and operation of major ports, movement of bulk commodities, such as grain and coal and the opportunities to achieve greater efficiency in the use of existing infrastructure.

Coonarr is located to the north of Kinkuna National Park and Coonarr Creek, south of Bundaberg. The Coonarr Coal Export Facility was an initiative of the Bundaberg Port Authority which saw a purpose built, highly efficient Port constructed to world class standards, ensuring handling costs were kept to a minimum and the efficient usage of capital equipment.

A new dedicated fast track railway was proposed to deliver the Surat Basin Coal from Mine to Port. Trains travelling at 100km/h were to carry up to 15,000 tonnes of coal on an uncongested line to Coonarr. Access to the Port was via an integrated Rail and Port interchange. A 6km-rail spur was to deliver coal through rural areas, 20kms south of Bundaberg with speed and ease. Being dedicated to coal, no congestion or bottlenecks were to exist with other cargoes. Trains were to be unloaded at a constant 4,000t/h from a bottom dump station adjacent to the stockpile site.

The stockpile site consists of coal beds 2kms in length serviced by three stacker/reclaimers providing for simultaneous in-loading and out-loading without delays.

The proposed Port was to be supplemented by a dredged channel to enable coal ships to load coal to the Coonarr Port from the Surat Basin – Dawson Valley Coalfields, which was to be well south of the Great Barrier Reef.

The existing Port of Bundaberg facility located at Burnett Heads at the mouth of Burnett River, 15kms east of Bundaberg, underwent a major upgrade in the late 1990's, early 2000. Sugar and related products, such as molasses, traditionally form the bulk of exported products from the Port, however the facility upgrade has enabled the Port of Bundaberg to seek new cargo opportunities in an effort to diversify and maximise cargo potential. This facility would be further enhanced by the construction of a rail link from the main north-south line, as proposed in the Coonarr Coal Export Facility.

The Bundaberg City Council supports the expansion of Port facilities and rail infrastructure, which will bring economic stimulus to the region through the increase in exports at the Bundaberg Port and through the creation of employment opportunities for the region. The Council encourages the Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services to assess this project in their inquiry into the integration of regional rail and road freight transport and their interface with Ports.

Sincerely

Peter Byrne  
Chief Executive Officer