



Regional rail and road networks inquiry

Public hearings in Canberra

A parliamentary inquiry examining the operation of regional road and rail networks and the way those networks connect with ports will hold a public hearing at Parliament House, Canberra, this Wednesday (10 August).

The House of Representatives Transport and Regional Services Committee, which is conducting the inquiry, will be hearing from the Australasian Railways Association.

A further public hearing will be held in Canberra on Wednesday 17 August 2005.

The Chair of the Committee, Paul Neville, said the purpose of the inquiry was to find out how well existing regional transport infrastructure was handling the rapidly growing task of moving Australia's freight. It would also consider the future of regional arterial road and rail networks.

Mr Neville said that the Committee would, in particular, be looking for ways in which greater efficiency can be achieved in transporting freight and how the three levels of government can co-operate to achieve this outcome.

"There has been strong interest in this inquiry because it involves issues that are vital to the continued growth of this country," Mr Neville said.

"So far, over 100 submissions have been received and further public hearings will be conducted at important transport centres around Australia."

Mr Neville said that the Committee is seeking the widest possible cross-section of views on the matters covered by the inquiry and is continuing to accept submissions. The Committee expects to table its report in the first half of next year.

Members of the public and media are most welcome to attend the public hearing, details of which appear below.

HEARING DETAILS

PUBLIC HEARING:	10 August 2005, 9.10 am - 10.15 am
WHERE:	Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra
SCHEDULED WITNESS:	Australasian Railway Association.

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/index.htm