



Regional rail and road networks inquiry Australian Rail Track Corporation to attend public hearing in Canberra

The House of Representatives Transport and Regional Services Committee will hear from the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) at a public hearing in Canberra this Wednesday, 6 September.

This hearing is part of 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.

"The rapidly growing national freight task presents a real challenge for Australia's transport networks," says Committee Chair, Paul Neville, "with industry estimates indicating that the freight task will double within 20 years."

The ARTC is a 'one-stop' shop for operators seeking access to the national interstate rail network. The Committee will seek information on existing infrastructure and operations and ARTC's plans for improving the efficiency of transport networks and port connections in Australia.

Representatives from the Southern Distribution Business Park project will also be appearing before the Committee. They will be discussing a proposal to develop a distribution hub near Goulburn, NSW.

"Australia must safeguard and enhance the capacity of its transport networks to support a vibrant national economy", said Mr Neville. "To achieve this we need the right infrastructure. We also need cooperation across transport modes, and between industry and the three levels of government."

Having already received 180 submissions, the Committee will continue to accept submissions for as long as possible, in an effort to get a cross-section of views.

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

PUBLIC HEARING:	Wednesday, 6 September 2006, 9.05 am – 11.00 a.m.
WHERE:	Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra
WITNESSES:	9.05 am – Australian Rail Track Corporation 10.15 am – Southern Distribution Business Park

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/