



# **Inquiry into interaction of regional rail and road networks and their interface to ports**

## ***Rio Tinto and Xstrata to attend public hearing in Gladstone***

The House of Representatives Transport and Regional Services Committee is conducting an inquiry into the integration of regional road and rail networks and their connectivity to ports.

The committee will hold the first public hearing for the inquiry in Gladstone, Queensland, on Thursday, 9 June 2005, to gather evidence from mining companies Xstrata Coal and the Rio Tinto group.

The Chair of the Committee, Paul Neville, said the inquiry will examine the operation of regional road and rail networks in handling the rapidly growing task of moving Australia's freight. An important part of this inquiry will be a consideration of the way those networks connect with the ports.

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

"These are the first hearings for a large inquiry," Mr Neville said. "There has been strong interest in the inquiry with over 80 submissions received so far and a number of public hearings will be conducted at important transport centres around Australia. The Committee expects to table its report early next year."

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

### **HEARING DETAILS**

Public Hearing: Thursday, 9 June 2005, 9.00am - 12.15pm  
Where: Gladstone Engineering Centre, Central Queensland University,  
Bryan Jordan Drive, Gladstone Marina.  
Witnesses: Rio Tinto and Xstrata Coal

#### **To arrange media comment:**

Please contact the House Transport and Regional Services Committee Chair, Paul Neville, on (07) 4152 0744 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/](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/trs/networks/)