



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 5 September 2005

Chair: Paul Neville MP

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 (7 September).

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

A further public hearing will be held in Canberra on Wednesday 14 September 2005.

Committee Chair Paul Neville said that the quantity of freight to be moved in Australia is growing very rapidly. The Committee is seeking to determine how well Australia's rail, road and port infrastructure is coping with that task and how the three levels of government can co-operate to promote the efficiency of the transport networks.

"The future growth and efficiency of the Australian freight transport system is a key part of the inquiry," Mr Neville said.

"The capability of the transport networks to keep pace with the freight task, will play a vital part in the continued growth of this country. There has been strong interest in this inquiry and, so far, about 115 submissions have been received."

He said the Committee is planning to conduct more public hearings at important transport centres around Australia over the next few months. 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 next year.

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

PUBLIC HEARING:	7 September 2005, 9.05 am – 10.15 a.m.
WHERE:	Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra
WITNESSES:	Australian Automobile 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 <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/trs/networks/index.htm>