



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services

**MEDIA ALERT**

Issued: 26 September

Chair: Paul Neville MP

## **Regional rail and road networks inquiry**

### ***Public hearings in Darwin***

A federal parliamentary inquiry examining the operation of regional road and rail networks and the way those networks connect with ports, will hold a public hearing in the Litchfield Room at Parliament House, Darwin, this Tuesday (27 September).

The House of Representatives Transport and Regional Services Committee, which is conducting the inquiry, will be hearing from the Northern Territory Government and a number of organisations involved in the transport industry, livestock exports and port operations in Darwin.

Committee Chair Paul Neville said that the volume of freight being moved in Australia is growing rapidly and the ability of regional transport networks to cope with the increasing demand is now a vital factor in Australia's future economic growth.

"Darwin is emerging as a crucial link in the movement of freight between Australia and Asia", Mr Neville said.

"The Committee is examining the capacity of the transport networks and the ports. It is also seeking ways in which the three levels of government can work together and in co-operation with private enterprise, to ensure that essential infrastructure is provided when and where it is needed," he said.

"The importance of this inquiry can be seen in the fact that about 120 submissions have been received."

The Committee is planning to conduct more public hearings at important transport centres around Australia over the next few months. It 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 around the middle of next year.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING: 27 September 2005, 9.30 am – 4.45 p.m.**

**WHERE: Litchfield Room, Parliament House, Darwin.**

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>