



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 12 September

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 (14 September).

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

Committee Chair Paul Neville said that the task for Australia's freight networks is growing rapidly. The Committee is seeking to determine how well the networks are prepared to deal with that growth and how the three levels of government and private enterprise, can work together to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is provided when and where it is needed.

"The future ability of the regional networks to cope with the freight task will have a vital bearing on the future growth of the Australian economy," Mr Neville said.

"The importance of this inquiry can be seen in the fact that about 115 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 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.

PUBLIC HEARING:	14 September 2005, 9.05 am – 10.15 a.m.
WHERE:	Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra
WITNESSES:	Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

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>