



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 3 March 2006

Chair: Paul Neville MP
Deputy Chair: Steve Gibbons MP

Regional rail and road networks inquiry

Public hearings in Western Australia

The House of Representatives Transport and Regional Services Committee will hold public hearings in five important transport centres in Western Australia next week. The hearings are part of its inquiry into the operation of regional rail and road networks and the way those networks link to the ports.

On Monday, the Committee will hear from a range of witnesses in Geraldton. On Tuesday, it will speak with a similar group in Bunbury, on Wednesday in Albany, and Thursday Esperance. On Friday in Perth, it will hear from the WA Government and the Fremantle Ports.

Committee Chair Paul Neville said that these five centres were chosen for the hearings because of the importance of the ports in the global and national freight networks. For WA that role is increasing, because the state expects its freight task to double within 20 years.

“The current resources boom has heightened the need for the more efficient use of our transport infrastructure and port operations,” Mr Neville said. “This is particularly true in Western Australia. During the hearings and the associated inspections, we will be examining road and rail access to the ports, recognising the need to have those sectors meshing smoothly.”

The Committee is seeking the widest possible cross-section of views on the matters covered by the inquiry and is continuing to accept submissions. Nearly 140 submissions to the inquiry have been received so far. It expects to table its report later this year.

Members of the public and the media are most welcome to attend the five public hearings.

	<i>Monday</i>
PUBLIC HEARING:	6 March 2006, 10.00 am – 1.30 pm
WHERE:	Conversations Restaurant, Bayly St, Batavia Coast Marina, Geraldton.
	<i>Tuesday</i>
PUBLIC HEARING:	7 March 2006, 9.00 am – 2.30 pm
WHERE:	East Ballroom, Lord Forrest Hotel, 20 Symmons St, Bunbury.
	<i>Wednesday</i>
PUBLIC HEARING:	8 March 2006, 9.00 am – 1.15 pm
WHERE:	William Finlay Function Room, City of Albany Council Chambers, 102 North Road, Albany
	<i>Thursday</i>
PUBLIC HEARING:	9 March 2006, 8.45 am – 3.00 pm
WHERE:	Reception Room, The Esperance Civic Centre, Council Place, Esperance
	<i>Friday</i>
PUBLIC HEARING:	10 March 2006, 9.15 – 2.45 pm
WHERE:	Duxton 2, Duxton Hotel, No.1 St George's Terrace, Perth

For media comment, please contact: Paul Neville, House Transport and Regional Services Committee Chair, on (02) 6277 4940 or mobile 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>