



Regional rail and road networks inquiry

Meyrick and Associates to attend public hearing

Meyrick and Associates will be appearing before the House of Representatives Transport and Regional Services Committee at a public hearing to be held at Parliament House, Canberra, this Wednesday (16 August).

This public hearing is part of the Committee's inquiry into the operation of regional road and rail networks and how they connect with the ports. Meyrick and Associates, a private consultancy firm, has recently been involved in conducting important studies into aspects of Australia's transport networks.

Committee Chair, Paul Neville said that the rapid growth in the national freight task and the expectation that demand will double within 20 years, presents the freight networks with a challenge that needs to be addressed immediately.

Mr Neville said that the Committee looks forward to drawing on Meyricks' knowledge of the transport sector, to add to the inquiry's body of evidence on the operation of existing transport networks and options for improving their efficiency.

"The Committee is seeking ways to overcome existing constraints in the efficiency of transport networks and the ports and to enhance our national capacity to deal with the increasing freight task."

The Committee has received almost 180 submissions and conducted 26 public hearings. This extensive inquiry is now drawing to a close and the Committee expects to table its report towards the end of the year. However, it is continuing its efforts to get the widest possible cross-section of views on the matters covered by the terms of reference. Consequently, it is continuing to accept submissions.

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

PUBLIC HEARING:	16 August 2006, 9.15 am – 10.15 am
WHERE:	Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra.
WITNESSES:	Meyrick and Associates

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 www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/trs/networks/