

**Australian Government****Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON

Mr Stephen Boyd
Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Economics
PO Box 6021
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

- 3 MAR 2012

Dear Mr Boyd

Thank you for the opportunity for officials of the Commonwealth Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to appear at the public hearings for the *Inquiry into raising the level of productivity growth in the Australian economy* on Thursday 4 February 2010.

In the course of our appearance, the Committee sought further advice on work by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) on urban congestion. COAG commissioned a review of urban congestion at its meeting on 26 February 2006 (Attachment A) and the review report was considered at the 13 April 2007 meeting. The report and other relevant projects and consultancies can be found at <http://www.btre.gov.au/info.aspx?ResourceId=256&NodeId=132>.

If you have any queries on this or any other aspects of our evidence, please do not hesitate to contact me on

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rhonda Dickson'.

Dr Rhondda Dickson
First Assistant Secretary
Industry, Infrastructure and Environment Division

26 February 2010

COAG and Urban Congestion

From 26 February 2006 Communique

COAG has agreed to improve the efficiency, adequacy and safety of Australia's transport infrastructure by committing to high priority national transport market reforms including to:

- reduce current and projected urban transport congestion, within current jurisdictional responsibilities, informed by a review into the main causes, trends, impacts and options for managing congestion focusing on national freight corridors.

COAG commissioned a review with a focus on national freight corridors but also examining local networks where they interact with, and impact on, these corridors. The Review report was prepared by a working group of representatives from the Department of Transport and Regional Services, State and Territory government transport and planning agencies and the Australian Local Government Association. The Review was overseen by the COAG Competition and Regulation Working Group. The then Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics provided the Secretariat to the Review.

The COAG Urban Congestion Review report was considered by COAG at its meeting on 13 April 2007 and published on the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics website at <http://www.btre.gov.au/info.aspx?ResourceId=256&NodeId=132>

A number of projects and consultancies were commissioned to provide specialist advice on important issues in the development of the review report and these are also available on the website.

From 13 April 2007 Communique

COAG agreed that each jurisdiction implement its own specific responses to urban congestion, drawing on best-practice principles, and noted that AusLink will continue to consider contributions to future urban projects on AusLink corridors.