



Inquiry into integration of regional rail and road networks with ports

The House of Representatives Transport and Regional Services Committee is conducting an inquiry into the integration of regional road and rail networks and their interface with the ports.

The committee will hold the next public hearing for the inquiry in Melbourne on Monday, 25 July 2005. Further hearings will be held in Portland on Tuesday 26 July 2005 and Melbourne again on Wednesday 27 July 2005.

The Chair of the Committee, Paul Neville, said the inquiry is examining the operation of regional road and rail arterial networks in handling the rapidly growing task of moving Australia's freight. An important part of this inquiry will be a consideration of the way those networks connect with the ports.

Mr Neville said that the Committee would be looking for ways in which greater efficiency can be achieved in the freight transport task, and how the three levels of government can co-operate to achieve this outcome.

"This is a large inquiry," Mr Neville said. "There has been strong interest in the inquiry and over 100 submissions have been received so far. Further public hearings will be conducted at important transport centres around Australia. The Committee expects to table its report early next year."

PUBLIC HEARING:	25 July 2005, 9.00 am - 1.00 p.m.
WHERE:	Legislative Council Committee Room, Parliament House
WITNESSES:	9.00 am City of Casey 9.45 am Victorian Freight and Logistics Council 11.00 am Latrobe City Council 12 noon Australian Shipowners' Association
PUBLIC HEARING:	26 July 2005 8.30 am – 1.00 pm
WHERE:	Sandilands Restaurant and Reception Centre, 33 Percy St, Portland
WITNESSES:	8.30 am Glenelg Shire Council 9.15 am Alliance of Councils for Rail Freight Development 10.00 am District Council of Grant and South East Local Government Association 11.00 am Portland Port Authority 12 noon Green Triangle Regional Plantation Committee and Limestone Coast Regional Development Board
PUBLIC HEARING:	27 July 2005 9.30 am – 12 noon
WHERE:	Legislative Council Committee Room, Parliament House
WITNESSES:	9.30 am Australian Wheat Board 10.45 am Port of Melbourne Corporation

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/