



# Regional rail and road networks inquiry

## *Flinders Ports and TasPorts to attend public hearing*

The House of Representatives Transport Committee will be hearing from South Australia's Flinders Ports and the Tasmanian Ports Corporation (TasPorts) at a public hearing at Parliament House, Canberra, this Wednesday (9 August).

This public hearing is part of its inquiry into the operation of regional road and rail networks and the way those networks connect with the ports.

Committee Chair Paul Neville said that the freight task in Australia has been growing rapidly, and is expected to double within 20 years. The Committee is seeking to determine how well Australia's rail, road and port infrastructure is coping. It is also looking at ways in which the three levels of government can cooperate to promote the efficiency of transport networks.

"Consideration of the way the regional rail and road networks connect with the ports is an important part of this inquiry." Mr Neville said. The Committee has been examining constraints on the growth of the ports and the problems involved in transporting freight to and from them on the existing rail and road networks.

"The Committee is seeking ways to improve network and port efficiencies and enhance Australia's capacity to meet the demands of the growing freight task."

The Committee's inquiry is now drawing to a close. It has received almost 180 submissions, but 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. The Committee expects to table its report towards the end of this year.

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

<b>PUBLIC HEARING:</b>	<b>9 August 2006, 9.15 am – 11.00 am</b>
<b>WHERE:</b>	<b>Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra.</b>
<b>WITNESSES:</b>	<b>Flinders Ports TasPorts</b>

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.apf.gov.au/house/committee/trs/networks/](http://www.apf.gov.au/house/committee/trs/networks/)