

>>> "Kerry Cox" <k.cox@ballarat.edu.au> 27/04/2005 4:01:43 pm >>>
** High Priority **

27 April 2005

Committee Chair
House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Neville

Concerning your enquiry of 5 April 2005, I wish to register from the point of view of the University of Ballarat with six campuses in Western Victoria, that better integration of rail and road freight transport may help ameliorate the very significant disadvantage here at the University of Ballarat we experience with our regular operations and our proposed strategic development that is brought about by the heavy congestion of traffic, including in particular slow moving heavy transport, on the Western Highway (Highway 8) particularly closer to Melbourne (Deer Park). The University is well-placed in a global economy, and especially given our emerging strengths in information technology, to attract corporate clients from around the world. The disadvantage given the present transportation system is the disinclination by those corporate leaders to travel from Melbourne airport to Ballarat by road (sometimes helicopters are used by those, presumably with large budgets).

Potential solutions obviously are to implement in a timely way the proposals concerning the Deer Park bypass but in due course it is distinctly possible that also will be congested and therefore better integration of rail and road transport would be a better long-term solution.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

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