



National Trunk Rail Pty Ltd
ACN 168 063 643

Inland rail one step closer

11 September 2015

Today's release of a report by the Federal Government's Inland Rail Implementation Group has been welcomed by Australia's only private sector proponent for an inland rail freight line.

National Trunk Rail Pty Ltd (NTR) Chairman Martin Albrecht AC said the report, authored by Implementation Group Chair and former Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson, was an important next step in moving Australia closer to a 21st century freight infrastructure solution.

Mr Albrecht said he was pleased that Mr Anderson had stressed in his covering letter to the Federal Government that: "Inland Rail has significant merit and, in my view, should be built now".

"NTR was also pleased to see that the opportunity for the private sector to deliver inland rail was acknowledged and encouraged in the Report," Mr Albrecht said.

"What we don't agree with in the Report is conjecture about the ability of the private sector to attract funding.

"The private sector has an appetite for infrastructure investment and NTR's view is that the private sector is best placed to largely fund and build large infrastructure in a timely manner to attract early investment."

Mr Albrecht said NTR noted the Inland Rail 2015 report recommended that the inland rail business case (also released today) be referred to Infrastructure Australia to enable "comparison with alternative solutions to the freight challenge".

"Infrastructure Australia has had NTR's inland rail submission since February 2014 and we met with IA as recently as this week to continue discussions," Mr Albrecht said.

"It's time inland rail was opened up for private sector interest and competition through a Public Private Partnership process.

"NTR would be a strong participant in a PPP process and would deliver an inland rail design that is shorter, flatter, straighter and faster, and in less than six years from commencement," Mr Albrecht said.

"NTR urges the Federal Government to respond quickly to today's report and set a clear direction for how inland rail can be delivered - now."

The National Trunk Rail group (www.nationaltrunkrail.com) combines decades of engineering, economic and policy experience among its members. Besides Mr Albrecht, it also includes former Queensland Rail CEO Vincent O'Rourke, former CEO of Queensland Investment Corporation Dr Doug McTaggart and former CEO of Queensland Treasury Mark Gray.

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