



Mildura Rural City Council

"The Most Liveable, People Friendly Community in Australia"

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NATIONAL LAND FREIGHT STRATEGY SUBMISSION

I am pleased to attach Mildura Rural City Council's submission to the National Land Freight Strategy.

This submission is made with the objective of having a new rail link from Mildura to the transcontinental rail line from Sydney to Adelaide/Perth/Darwin included as a potential future rail freight corridor in the National Land Freight Strategy.

The project involves the construction of a new rail corridor from Mildura to Menindee (200km), bypass of Mildura's urban area and standard gauging of existing broad gauge track from Mildura to Geelong.

Presently, the Melbourne to Mildura rail corridor stops abruptly at Mildura, one of Australia's most productive agricultural and horticultural regions with strong growth in the mining, renewable energy and manufacturing sectors. Freight transport connections are essential to the ongoing economic growth and diversification of the region yet there is no direct connection from this corridor to any part of the National Interstate Rail Network.

The Transcontinental Rail Link project proposes to connect the AusLink rail corridor which currently stops at Mildura, to the national rail network at Menindee near Broken Hill to create a radically new combination of supply chain paths that could change commodity flows for the region.

It is widely recognised in the tri-state region that a northern access standard gauge rail link to the national rail network would yield significant benefits for Victoria, the Riverland region in New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria and more broadly for rail freight and passenger movements nationally. It is designed to address the challenge of regional growth in Victoria and New South Wales by providing a high quality link to Victorian ports and major centres for the region to New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Council commends the proposal for a new rail link from Mildura to the transcontinental rail line from Sydney to Adelaide/Perth/Darwin as being most worthy of inclusion in the National Land Freight Strategy.

Yours sincerely



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