

# Infrastructure Australia and Freight: How infrastructure can deliver

The Reset Button  
Context  
Some Questions  
What Next

Mr Michael Deegan

# The Reset Button

- Opportunity to press the reset button?
- National Transport Commission & Australian Transport Council: national transport framework
- Infrastructure Australia directions: international gateways and national freight network strategy
- Council of Australian Governments and Tax Review – road pricing

## Context

- The long view - 20 years +
- The big flows - ports
- Cities – planning for freight. And executing the plans
- Energy and climate uncertainties
- Using what we've got
- National thinking – productivity or interstate?  
Interoperability?

# Some questions

- The long view
  - why is there no national freight plan?
  - is future proofing needed re eg. encroachment?
  - where is the pipeline of projects?
  - tomorrows bottom line = decisions made today?
- The big flows
  - where is the national ports plan?
  - why “focus” on “a lot of freight going everywhere”?
- Cities
  - why do plans treat freight as an afterthought?
  - do the plans “talk to each other” among the cities?

# More questions

- Energy and climate
  - how robust and flexible are our systems?
- Using what we've got
  - why not B triples on Hume Hwy?
  - freight's ability to influence the infrastructure?
  - coordination versus competition?
- National thinking
  - rail safety: USA 305m = 1 regulator, Australia 21m = 7+ regulators?
  - why not a single all mode all regulation approach?
  - is there a national network?
  - pairing of terminals among cities?
  - reservation of national corridors / sites?

## So?

- “productivity, safety and environment – how infrastructure can deliver”
- Answer: by dealing with the above issues
- Infrastructure can deliver what? What is the problem to be solved?
  - “funding” is not the problem
  - nor is “infrastructure”
- The use of infrastructure generates value. We need to:
  - fix impediments to efficient use of infrastructure today
  - get the infrastructure needed for freight in the future
  - ie. infrastructure responds appropriately to freight.

# What Next

- National ports strategy:
  - Prime Minister's request to Infrastructure Australia and National Transport Commission
- National freight network:
  - Infrastructure Australia Council to develop concepts
- A pipeline of freight projects
- Focus on international best practice
- Beyond participation:
  - How to build on the good work done?
  - How to inspire further good work?