



MEDIA RELEASE

INLAND RAIL – THE FUTURE OF FREIGHT

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**The Hon Warren Truss MP
Leader of the Nationals
Shadow Minister for Infrastructure & Transport**

STAY CONNECTED

SCOTT EMERSON**Queensland Minister for Transport & Roads**

A Coalition Government, if elected, will kick-start one of Australia's most important projects, the Inland Rail from the Port of Brisbane to Melbourne through New South Wales.

Nationals Leader Warren Truss said \$300 million would be allocated by the Coalition to finalise plans and start delivering a rail line which will create a new future for movement in Australia's eastern states.

Mr Truss was at Acacia Ridge in Brisbane today to make the announcement. Queensland's Transport and Main Roads Minister, Scott Emerson and the Member for Moreton, Malcolm Cole.

"The Coalition has a vision for developing a stronger nation, and that includes a modern and more efficient freight network supporting a five-pillar economy which includes mining and agricultural sectors," Mr Truss said.

"This project will help ensure that our transport network is ready to do what is required to meet Australia's growing freight transport task of the next decade."

"Under our plans, the standard gauge rail line that presently runs from Illabo (near Cootamundra) will finish its almost 2,000 kilometre journey to the Port of Brisbane."

The Australian Rail Track Corporation will be tasked to work with interstate governments to establish a staged, 10-year approach to the construction of the Inland Rail. Construction is expected to start within three years.

Infrastructure Australia will also be asked to evaluate the project's economic fundamentals and assess any private sector proposals.

Key tasks include:

- identifying a preferred corridor from Moree to the Port of Brisbane;
- delivering the preliminary engineering design and environmental assessments;
- land acquisition and approvals from Illabo to Toowoomba;
- establishing a corridor between Rosewood (west of Ipswich) and Acacia Ridge.

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- investigating a rail tunnel linking the Port of Brisbane to Acacia Ridge; and
- a new 24/7 freight connection from Acacia Ridge Intermodal Terminal to the free up capacity for the south-east Queensland passenger network.

Mr Emerson welcomed the investment into rail, and the Coalition's support for an important project.

"This project has been around for many years and now is the right time it has been delivered," Mr Emerson said.

"Queensland's 10-year freight plan has forecast volumes to increase from 1,000 million tonnes in 2010 to 1,550 million tonnes in 2021.

"In order to meet the increasing freight volumes, freight services will no longer run from the passenger lines through Ipswich and some of Brisbane's most southern suburbs."

The Newman Government has already committed \$67 million to deliver the first stages, consisting of two passing loops and upgrades to 11 rail tunnels between Toowoomba and Warwick, Mr Emerson said.

The project will bring huge benefits to industry as it will increase capacity and reduce the time it takes to move freight from Melbourne to Brisbane. It will also improve freight movements including agriculture and coal from the Whitsundays and the Surat Basin.

Authorised by Brian Loughnane, Liberal Party of Australia, Cnr Blackall & Macquarie St, South Brisbane, QLD 4101

