



*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**

**Scott Emerson**

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## **Queensland Minister for Transport & Roads**

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

Nationals Leader Warren Truss said \$300 million would be allocated to finalise plans and start delivering a rail line which will create a new freight 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 Transport Minister for Moreton, Malcolm Cole.

"The Coalition has a vision for developing a stronger nation, and that includes a more efficient freight network supporting a five-pillar economy with 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 50 years."

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

The Australian Rail Track Corporation will be tasked to work with interested parties 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 assessment;
- land acquisition and approvals from Illabo to Toowoomba;
- establishing a corridor between Rosewood (west of Ipswich) and Acacia Ridge.

BRISBANE);

- 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 south-east Queensland passenger network to free up capacity for the south-east Queensland passenger network.

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

"This project has been around for many years and now is the right time to be 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 need to be separated from the passenger lines through Ipswich and some of Brisbane's most congested 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 Brisbane and Toowoomba," 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 Warrumbungle and Surat Basins.

Authorised by Brian Loughnane, Liberal Party of Australia, Cnr Blackall & Macquarie St

