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MEDIA RELEASE

Inquiry into the Inland Rail project and regional New South Wales

The Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development tabled its report today into the Inland Rail project and regional NSW.

The Committee commenced this inquiry to identify economic development opportunities arising from the project and what actions are needed to maximise these opportunities. During the course of the inquiry the Committee received 46 submissions, held two public hearings and visited regional areas along the Inland Rail route. The Committee has made seven findings and ten recommendations aimed at addressing some of the issues raised during the inquiry.

Committee Chair and MP for Albury, Mr Justin Clancy, said that Inland Rail was largely viewed by inquiry participants as a major infrastructure project with multiple benefits for regional communities and the wider NSW economy.

"The project presents opportunities to attract skilled workers to regional communities, develop the local workforce through training and upskilling, and attract new and diverse industries," Mr Clancy said.

However, to maximise the opportunities and benefits of Inland Rail, inquiry participants stressed the importance of upgrading and connecting the existing NSW freight network to Inland Rail and eastern ports.

"Linking regional businesses and communities to Inland Rail is important, especially to those communities not directly situated along the Inland Rail route. The Committee has recommended that the NSW Government investigate and explore upgrades to the existing freight network," said Mr Clancy.

Other areas the Committee highlighted in its report included: the importance of ensuring safety where Inland Rail connects with road traffic; the need for effective communication and consultation on significant infrastructure projects; and the need for a central point of contact and coordination for Inland Rail related projects.

A copy of the Committee's report can be viewed on the Committee's [website](#).

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