

INLAND RAIL PROJECT AND REGIONAL NSW

Organisation: Halls Accounting Pty Ltd

Date Received: 25 January 2021

27 Bolton Street
NARRANDERA
NSW 2700

25th January 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: INLAND RAIL PROJECT AND REGIONAL NSW

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission. As a keen local advocate of the reopening of the Narrandera to Tocumwal Rail Line over many years, I provide the following observations:

1. Without the reinstatement of the Narrandera to Tocumwal Rail Line, the major mode of freight transport from the Murrumbidgee Food Bowl will continue to be Road. The Inland Rail alignment is simply situated too far East . As a result, it will be too slow and too expensive for our local operators to consider. However, the existing rail corridor from Narrandera to Tocumwal would provide Economic synergies by moving freight quicker and cheaper from our Region. This line would link up with Inland Rail at the Mangalore junction.
2. The NSW Government could explore delivery of the Narrandera to Tocumwal Rail Line through a Public/Private Partnership. This is an excellent opportunity for the State Government to demonstrate its commitment to Regional Development west of Wagga Wagga. There is a solid business case for this Rail Line and Australian Superannuation Funds are currently keen to invest in Infrastructure. It could well be that the only financial contribution from the NSW Government would be a 99 Year Lease for the use of the current alignment.
3. If the NSW Freight and Ports Plan is serious about improving rail freight access and flows and in supporting delivery of Inland Rail it should fully investigate the Economic synergies and freight connections to be gained by the reopening of the Narrandera to Tocumwal Rail Line. This investigation should be 100% Transparent and be undertaken by key Stakeholders.

Yours Faithfully
Wesley Hall
Managing Director
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Certified Practising Accountants
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