

**Submission  
No 38**

## **INLAND RAIL PROJECT AND REGIONAL NSW**

**Name:** Ms Maxine Finlay

**Date Received:** 9 February 2021

I wish to object to the current route selected for Inland Rail, and want other alternate routes examined as I believe this is not the best route to address the needs of the people along this proposed line from Melbourne to Brisbane. I believe the cost will far outweigh the benefits and ultimately the rail will not remove the road freight.

The Coast is where the freight needs are and it's only along the coastal roads that the need can be met, this line will ultimately be left for dead by coastal road upgrades and turn into a non-paying, costly white elephant, that all NSW residents will be left with in the future.

I'd also like to point out the damage this line will do to the rich farming land (there is a limited amount of good farming soil in Australia) due to water backing up, flooding, soil erosion and general salinity problems the line will cause along the route. Sour soil is useless soil and no good for farming - once its destroyed its lost.

I don't believe inland rail has addressed the safety issues and level crossings should be outlawed in this day and age.

Fire is a mayor risk in all country areas and no one will be able to access the line if a fire should start within the boundaries (track fencing) along the route, it will spread out of control long before anyone can fight it as was the experience of last year's fires throughout Australia.

Such a long stretch of unmanned, unmanaged line in the inland heat of summertime is a time bomb waiting to go off, and Global Warming will only make this a regular occurrence. Metal track and metal wheels will cause dry grasses to ignite easily and spread into neighbouring properties, this is surely an Ever present danger.

Please if this is to be of benefit to todays people and future generations it must not be rushed, it must be well considered, well planned, it must be the very best we can do and the people who are being disadvantaged must be fairly compensated. This is a once only project please make those responsible for it accountable.

Yours in trust  
M Finlay