

**Submission
No 22**

**INQUIRY INTO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
IN CENTRAL WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES**

Organisation: Canowindra Produce Co Pty Ltd

Date received: 26/08/2011

Canowindra Produce is a family business which has been established since 1935. Our activities are varied and we have stockfeed sites at Canowindra, Forbes & Nanami. As well as grain receipt sites at Tichbourne, Gooloogong and Eugowra.

We are exporters of Grains and Hay. However since the long running drought our operations at Forbes and Tichbourne have ceased since 2006. Sadly since this time the rail service which used to supply Forbes containers for delivery to Port have also ceased.

Now with full water irrigation for the farmers they are looking to grow crops and we are desperate to start exporting hay again from our Forbes plant to Asia and the Middle East.

At present we have to road freight a distance of 60 kilometres and then a rail provider sends containers to Port from Blayney. However at Forbes the distance is far greater and hence the viability of the operation is jeopardised because of the inability to supply rail trucks to the Forbes district.

Hence our Submission

Rail Freight in Central NSW

Canowindra Produce this year exported approximately 20 000 tonnes of grain from Canowindra. This coming season we are looking at doing the same amount of grain plus 10 000 tonnes of hay from Forbes.

We cannot get any guarantee at all of a rail service from Forbes. Just as big a worry is only a limited service from Blayney due to them also having rail provider issues.