

Submission
No 1

**INQUIRY INTO RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT
COSTING IN NSW**

Name: Councillor Ron Mac Pherson

Date received: 24/08/2011

18-8-2011

To Whom It May Concern,

Submission Re Rail Infrastructure

In making this submission it is based on country rail, versus the breakdown of country roads through failure to maintain lines to a standard of repair to maintain heavy freight on rail in preference to road.

The main line Sydney to Melbourne since concrete sleepers have been laid has developed into a very sloppy situation in many areas through the onset of wet weather conditions. This has resulted from a 10 year drought, whereby cracks have developed under the lines thus allowing water to seep through under the rail. Allow me to digress now, to highlight another area of grave concern by shire councils regards there roads. You may be aware of an organisation called the AWB, the greatest marketing system the world ever knew, but because of the oil for food program not being policed the AWB + 2000 other companys paid fees to the Iraq regime. The Volcker inquiry highlighted the entire system, but it was the Australian Wheat Growers who suffered when the Australian Labor and Liberal parties joined forces to dismantle the system from a one owner of wheat, AWB, to a multitude of owners. This is called deregulation, and has completely put the family farm at risk, through the lack of protection, in a world of subsidized markets, this has mattered at a time when we need the prime agricultural land maintained in Australian hands for continued production to feed our growing needs in the future. It is here that the deregulation of the Wheat Market, so many buyers this has created a problem for Shire Councils roads, under the AWB scheme which was a buyer of last resort. The AWB who owned the entire tonnage of wheat it would engage rail to proceed to the bulkheads to draw upwards of 30 trucks of wheat on rail to the main marshalling point of sending the wheat to port. As it is today there may be 5-6-7 owners of the wheat it is not viable to send to on three trucks for their wheat so it is being hauled in B Doubles, and along with the seepage under the roads that I **spoke off earlier, the roads are breaking down** and it is impossible to keep up with the repairs. This is the over action of politicians jumping into deregulation, it might interest you that following the Cole inquiry into the oil for food situation, no one has of yet been interviewed regards the matter. In order to maintain the roads we must get Regulation up and running and utilize these branch lines, we must all unite to set up a land settlement scheme to put young men and women back on the land with a marketing scheme to produce much needed food for Australians with the surplus being sold to the world,

Thanking you

Cr Ron MacPherson, Juneec Shire Council

PS. Please don't be afraid to pick up the phone and we can talk about rail. Thanks.

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24 AUG 2011

LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL

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Er Ron McWherson, Junc Shire Council

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