

**Submission
No 15**

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF PORT OF NEWCASTLE SALE
ARRANGEMENTS ON PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDITURE IN
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Organisation: Moree Plains Shire Council

Date Received: 11 January 2019

11 January 2018

Hon Robert Brown MLC
Chairman
Legislative Council Public Works Committee
NSW Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Via email: Public.Works@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Brown

Inquiry - Impact of Port of Newcastle sale arrangements on public works expenditure in New South Wales

Moree Plains Shire Council supports development of a container terminal at the Port of Newcastle as we believe it will be a major economic driver for Moree Plains and the Northwest and New England regions.

This matter was presented to our Council at their meeting of 22 March 2018 and it received overwhelming support and encouragement for measures that provide an efficient modern transport and logistic system for our community as quickly as possible.

Effective, efficient and reliable transport and logistics systems are fundamental to the economic prosperity of Moree Plains as well as other inland regions. The Moree Plains is ideally located in the heart of Australia's most productive agricultural area contributes in excess of \$1 billion of agricultural production which requires a transport system that can move high volumes of goods quickly, safely and cost effectively to the markets.

Given the significant freight demands of the Moree Plains, and other inland regions which comprise the food bowl of New South Wales, a container terminal located at the Port of Newcastle would be strategically placed to provide substantial economic and community benefits to be realised by allowing more efficient movement of freight to the markets.

It is our view that the current port sale arrangements have impaired productivity growth and competition across Port of Newcastle's catchment and the State. More specifically, in relation to 1 (c) of the Terms of Reference, it is our view that the container port limitations have created additional costs for businesses within the Port of Newcastle catchment.

Therefore, on behalf of Moree Plains Shire Council, unequivocal support is provided for the development of a container terminal at the Port of Newcastle, which has potential to benefit inland regional Australia and the nation through a range of transport, logistics, and economic, social and environmental outcomes.

For further information on this matter, please contact me on

All the best

John Carleton
EXECUTIVE PROJECTS MANAGER