



MEDIA RELEASE

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- ABC RADIO
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- GOONDIWINDI ARGUS
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- WIN NEWS
- TOOWOOMBA CHRONICLE
- WARWICK DAILY
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INLAND RAIL - A MUST FOR THE FUTURE

The Melbourne-Brisbane Inland Rail Alliance, of which Inglewood Shire Council is a strong supporter, has again urged both the Federal Government and Opposition to commit to the construction of the Inland Rail line as a matter of urgency.

Mayor Councillor Joan White today highlighted the extensive benefits of rail as efficient, cost effective transport for an ever increasing freight task, environmentally friendly and more importantly, sage.

Councillor White noted that one train will save at least 150 semi trailers and about 45,000 litres of fuel.

"With the interstate freight task expected to double by 2019 the proposed inland rail is essential to handle the growth in land transport and take some of the trucks off the road that will be at unmanageable levels if nothing is done," Councillor White continued.

Both major parties have previously recognised the importance of this major infrastructure project and have committed to a further \$115m scoping study of the Inland route. Councillor White said, "We are now calling on them to commit to the construction of the line as a matter of urgency immediately after this study is complete."

"The Melbourne-Brisbane Inland Rail Alliance is extremely disappointed that neither party has accepted the opportunity to commit to funding this critical infrastructure estimated at a cost of some \$3.3billion and ensure that the freight task between Melbourne and Brisbane can be managed in the medium future," Cr White continued.

Inland Railway pioneer, Everal Compton, announced in Toowoomba last month that his company, Australian Transport & Energy Corridor Ltd (ATEC), will build the missing rail link across the Queensland/New South Wales Border from Moree to Toowoomba and have freight trains operating on it by 2013.

To be known as the Border Railway, the building of this vital interstate rail link will enable trains to operate between Melbourne and Gladstone as the Surat Basin Railway from Toowoomba to Gladstone is scheduled to be completed by 2012.

The Border Railway will be 400 kilometers in length and it will be a Greenfield project.

The train path of the Border Railway will be from Charlton to Moree via Westbrook, Pittsworth, Millmerran, Inglewood, Yelarbon, Yetman and North Star. The border

crossing will be at Yelarbon, thus avoiding the flood plains at Goondwindi and Boggabilla.

The Railway will cost an estimated 700 million dollars and will allow new coal mines to open at Felton East, Felton West, Lochbar and Bringalily on the Darling Downs in Queensland and at Ashford which is near Yetman in New South Wales.

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AUSTRALIAN TRANSPORT & ENERGY CORRIDOR LTD
proponents of the
THE INLAND RAILWAY

PATH OF
THE SURAT BASIN RAILWAY – GLADSTONE TO TOOWOOMBA
THE BORDER RAILWAY – TOOWOOMBA TO MOREE

