

City of Ballarat

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CITY OF
BALLARAT

Date: 10 October 2008

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Infrastructure Australia
Level 21, Deutsche Bank Building
126 Phillip Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear To Whom It May Concern

NATIONAL LINK – CONNECTING AUSTRALIA'S RAIL FREIGHT NETWORK

As Mayor of the City of Ballarat, I wish to lodge this submission as a worthy recipient of future funding from Infrastructure Australia.

Ballarat is at the junction of several major rail links in Victoria. Given the Victorian Governments commitment to standardisation of the major north west line to Mildura, the opportunity finally presents itself to link Western Victoria directly to the Transcontinental. Council has embraced the concept of connectivity to Parkes, Broken Hill and to the West Coast and has worked closely with the Mildura Council to identify both the regional benefits but also the National benefits which would result.

Ballarat is perfectly positioned to act as the pivotal hub for containerisation drawing from the Goulburn Valley, Geelong and the Western District direct to Perth, Darwin and Parkes. Overseas experience has proven that by connecting major regional cities with modern freight rail creates opportunities for expansion and takes pressure off capital cities. There is already close cooperation with the Victorian State Government to build Ballarat as a major satellite city to Melbourne and the building of the proposed rail link will provide opportunities for manufacturing industries whose markets lie to the north and to Western Australia.

The concept which we are committed to is truly National in its vision and one which all Australians should ultimately benefit from.

In collaboration with Mildura Council and Broken Hill Council the City of Ballarat is pleased to present this submission with the wish that it be given close scrutiny and the ultimate support we believe it deserves.

Please be advised in addition to this submission made in collaboration with other councils the City of Ballarat is also making a submission of its own to Infrastructure Australia covering a range of other high priority Infrastructure issues of national significance.

Yours sincerely

Cr Stephen Jones
Mayor



Cc: CEO- Anthony Schinck, Director Infrastructure- Jeff Haydon