



## Mildura Rural City Council

*"The Most Liveable, People Friendly Community in Australia"*  
A.B.N. 42 498 937 037

13 October 2008

The Infrastructure Coordinator  
Infrastructure Australia  
GPO Box 594  
CANBERRA 2601

Dear Sir / Madam

### **Re: Infrastructure Australia submission**

Although presently Australia's fastest growing inland city, Mildura has recognised that drought and the future global warming will determine its future more than mans input.

To effectively 'drought proof' this premium food bowl of Australia and to make the region internationally competitive, the Mildura Council has for the past four years embarked on a mission to link this city by rail to the Transcontinental. My council has worked closely with both New South Wales and Victorian Governments and the cities of Broken Hill and Ballarat to achieve this aim. The studies have revealed that this link would enable 83% of all Australians to be reached by freight rail within 24 hours thus enabling Mildura to be a significant distribution centre for Australia and lessen the reliance on horticulture.

I have enclosed a subsidiary study released in October 2008 which gives greater emphasis to the cost savings created by the introduction of a standard gauge line from Melbourne to Mildura and is more regional in context. The combined outcomes of both studies highlights that it is of paramount importance from a National, State and Regional perspective that the linking of two major rail lines be achieved. Far greater challenges now face Australia than before and this countries ability to better service its defence needs and to transport minerals, dry goods and horticultural products cost effectively with the lowest carbon imprint, using the least fuel possible and by the quickest means justifies our belief that the submission now tendered is of National significance.

Yours sincerely

**CR JOHN ARNOLD  
MAYOR**

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