



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Input from champion of Inland Rail link very valuable

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has praised the input of longstanding champion of the Inland Rail link between Melbourne and Brisbane, Mr Everalld Compton saying his input is very valuable.

“Everalld Compton, the Chairman of Australian Transport Energy Corridor Ltd has shown great leadership on the Inland Rail link between Melbourne and Brisbane and eventually through to Darwin over many years travelling the inland and raising the opportunities that such a link would mean for inland Australia.

Mr Compton has continued to show leadership on this project by providing the Federal Government with a submission that identifies alternative routes through inland Australia that need to be objectively assessed so that the best route for the nation can be achieved.

It is a great credit to him that he has received so many submissions from Councils and groups along possible routes for the link.

He has gained the trust of country people through his commitment to literally moving mountains for this project and his input should be very seriously considered in the feasibility study to be undertaken on the project in the near future,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor has also supported Mr Compton’s call for a National Infrastructure Authority to be established by legislation with powers to implement and finance nationally designated projects.

“For Australia to compete internationally, we need efficient infrastructure to service our wealth creating industries including our regional and rural industries.

Without a commitment to developing infrastructure like the Inland Rail, inland Australia will always be the poor relation when, with vision and commitment from both the Government and the private sector it could grow and deliver major benefits to the nation.

Mr Compton’s call for a National Infrastructure Authority properly recognised and resourced and working with groups like the Institute of Engineers that prepare regular infrastructure report cards, could objectively identify the infrastructure needs of the nation and act to see that these needs were met in a timely manner, not after the need reaches crisis point,” Mr Windsor said.

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