



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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# Media Release

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## Inland Rail “Missing Link” welcomed

The announcement of the go ahead to construct the “missing link” in the Inland Rail between Melbourne and Brisbane from Moree to Toowoomba via Yelarbon has been welcomed by the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor is very pleased that the NSW and Queensland Governments have seen the construction of the link as an opportunity to help develop inland Australia not a source of leakage between the states economies to be protected.

“I congratulate the NSW and Queensland Governments for finally moving towards assisting to develop better transport links between them rather than keep the chasm between the States that only served to impede getting product and freight to port whether it be Queensland or NSW ports.

“By developing the freight option of bypassing the Sydney basin, the Sydney Port will become less congested for through freight and improve access for those industries requiring port facilities in the Sydney basin.

“The link is a great opportunity to provide more competitive freight options to industry and will hopefully make interstate transport more economic and safer by reducing our dependence on long distance truck haulage.

For the New England Electorate, the link could lead to possibly opening a coal mine at Ashford in the north and could create further jobs directly in rail and rolling stock maintenance.

Once open, the opportunities for short rail haulage and passenger transport could also be pursued which would help develop tourism along its route too,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor is not only pleased that a valuable piece of national infrastructure is finally coming to fruition but he is also pleased that the efforts of a visionary Australian, Everal Compton will be rewarded.

“The proposal to construct an Inland Rail from Melbourne to Brisbane and eventually to Darwin has been mooted for over 100 years by a number of people but it has been over the last thirteen years that it has really been promoted by Everal Compton and his ATEC Consortium.

“The project has received much ‘superficial’ support from Government despite it gaining much local support from people along its possible routes.

“It would have to be the most studied project in Australian infrastructure development history, with scoping study after feasibility study after studies of dusty studies taking place to just be seen by some political players to be seen to be supporting the project when in reality they were white-anting it behind the scenes.

“If ever an Australian needs to be recognised for his drive and passion for a project that will have a wonderful legacy for our nation, it is Everal Compton,” Mr Windsor said.

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