

Federal Government throws the Murray Basin Rail Project a lifeline

The Rail Freight Alliance welcomes the \$200.2 Million Dollar funding announcement from the Federal Government toward the completion of the Murray Basin Rail Project.

This important funding announcement follows the Victorian Governments request for support to rework and complete Stage 2 of the project. Whilst this funding announcement is welcome news, it will not see through the completion of the remaining stages of the project.

This federal funding will see the completion of stage two – while this is good news it would be disappointing if the Victorian government took this opportunity to see this project as complete denying critical parts of the Murray Basin access to export markets and efficiencies offered by the Interstate Rail Freight Network.

The Federal Government understand the critical nature of this project being completed to the original specifications underpinning the importance of rail standardisation and have financially backed this important piece of rail infrastructure.

“The 2019, 2020 Victorian Food and Fibre Export Performance Report showed that Victoria delivered a record \$14.5 Billion in exports and is well on target to reach its target of \$20 Billion food and fibre exports by 2030. A positive milestone for farmers and Victoria that produces over a quarter of Australia’s food and fibre exports.

“Surely an efficient and affordable rail freight network is an essential for the future of these industries, competing in a global market Putting more, longer, heavier trucks on our road networks is not the solution to Victoria’s freight transport needs. Victoria needs efficient access to its Ports and the national interstate rail network.”, RFA, CEO, Reid Mather said.

RFA, Chair, Cr Anita Rank called on the Andrew’s Victorian Government to match the \$5 Million Dollars of funding to plan for a fully standardised Murray Basin Rail Network, something that the Rail Alliance and its members have been advocating for a very long time.

“this project is far too important to ignore and I encourage both the federal and state governments to find a way to complete this important piece of rail infrastructure”

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