

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FUND MAROONA TO PORTLAND BUSINESS CASE

The Rail Freight Alliance welcomes the joint announcement from The Deputy Prime Minister and The Federal Member for Wannon, Dan Tehan's commitment to fund a full business case to evaluate the upgrading of the Maroona to Portland Line.

"The Alliance has long advocated for this line to be upgraded and today we are cautiously optimistic that finally this line will be brought up to standard", RFA Chair Cr. Glenn Milne said. "This line has been overlooked for too long."

"This 172-kilometre section of line links the Western half of Victoria to the National Grid and the Port of Portland, creating a pathway to export some of Australia's most productive farmland and mineral deposits.

The upgrading of this line will create rail competition at the Ports of Geelong, Melbourne and Portland, increasing international competitiveness and creating jobs and investment in the local, state and national economies, Rail Freight Alliance Deputy Chair, Cr. Anita Rank said.

Cr Rank acknowledged the many stakeholders and member councils who have contributed their support to the Murray Basin Rail Project and the inclusion of the Maroona to Portland line.

The Port of Portland is considered the best deep-sea Port in Regional Victoria and has the experience and expertise in handling rare earth resources, bulk grain and timber and we thank them for their ongoing support and advocacy

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