

Federal Government Investment Welcomed

The Rail Freight Alliance (RFA) warmly welcomed the Federal Government's \$150 Million dollar Investment in the Maroona to Portland Line following the Federal Government's budget announcement last night.

"In a very fiscal environment this is a welcome investment said, Cr. Milne, Chair of the RFA. We always knew the need to invest in this line was imperative, given the mineral sands 900,000-ton annual freight task to commence within 2 years. If this freight was to go by road, it would have been devastating for the communities along the route. Safety, amenity, road longevity matter to all Victorians as well as to the Victorian economy in getting reliable freight paths to export".

The 172 Kilometre of line was leased by the Victorian Government to the Federal Government and managed by the Australian Rail Track Corporation. "The ongoing challenge for the Alliance was who pays, Reid Mather CEO of the RFA said. The additional grain from the standardised Mildura Line and the mineral sands freight task has demonstrated the need for this investment".

The Port of Portland is Western Victoria's best deep-sea Port and is experienced in handling mineral sands concentrate. This upgrade will serve the Victoria2n community well and demonstrate to successive governments the value of rail freight investment.

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