



11 November 2022

Assistant Director – Inland Rail Review Secretariat
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
GPO Box 594
Canberra ACT 2601
By email: IR.Review@infrastructure.gov.au

Dear Assistant Director

RE: Independent Review of the delivery of the Inland Rail Program

Please accept a submission from Wabtec Corporation (“Wabtec”) to the Independent Review of the delivery of the Inland Rail Program conducted on behalf of the Australian Government by Dr Kerry Schott AO.

Wabtec is a leading global provider of equipment, systems, digital solutions and value-added services for the freight and transit rail industries, as well as the mining, marine and industrial markets. Wabtec has been a leader in the rail industry for over 150 years and has a vision to achieve a zero-emission rail system in the U.S. and worldwide.

In Australasia, Wabtec has a well-established presence and local partnerships with more than 850 employees across 10 sites in Australia and New Zealand where vital rail components are manufactured and overhauled. We supply locomotives directly to the west coast market in Australia to mining customers and operators. Additionally in the east coast market of Australia, Wabtec has had a more than 60-year partnership with UGL, building the only Australian-made diesel electric locomotives with our engines and other components. Our advanced manufacturing of zero-emission battery and hydrogen hybrid locomotives has meant that our battery electric fleet which have been taken up by Roy Hill, Rio Tinto and BHP already in the West – and the East Coast market to which we are in advanced discussions with design and take-up due to the necessary gauge and other change requirements from heavy haul operations in the West.

Independent Review Terms of Reference

Wabtec notes the Terms of Reference for the Independent Review includes:

“(b) consult with stakeholders across the freight sector to test the Inland Rail service offering and the importance of this to achieving the overall benefits of Inland Rail, including how it provides new capacity and resilience to support Australia’s national supply chain network”.

As an established rail freight sector stakeholder in Australia with global experience, Wabtec shares the Australian Government’s view – as stated when it announced the review on 7 October 2022 – that:
“Inland Rail is an important part of building additional capability and capacity to increase the resilience of Australia’s freight supply chain and meet our growing freight task, which is forecast to grow by up to 35 per cent by 2040. Moving freight off the roads and on to rail will help with the task of decarbonising while helping regional cities grow by providing more opportunities for jobs and industries.”

While Wabtec cannot comment on the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) processes for route selection, community engagement or project delivery, Wabtec does commend to the Independent Review to innovation in rail delivered and in development, and the role of rail to more efficiently and cleanly deliver goods than any other mode of transportation.

In March last year, Rafael Santana, President and Chief Executive Officer of Wabtec Corporation presented to the United States House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, on Freight 2030 initiative as: *"Our plan to accelerate the future of freight rail, the "Freight 2030" vision, is to expand freight rail utilization, accelerate the reduction of GHG emissions, reduce road congestion and traffic, and make transportation in the U.S. safer for everyone. The "Freight 2030" vision seeks to reinvent U.S. freight rail by developing the technology to accelerate:*

- *Decarbonization through the creation of zero-emission locomotives.*
- *Technology that enables a 50% increase in freight rail utilization and up to 50% reduction in safety incidents, while at the same time making rail faster and more efficient.*
- *Job creation that enables 250,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs spurred by the transportation and manufacturing sectors."*

The opportunity, through Inland Rail, is for ARTC and the Australian Government to not only embrace but foster innovation and manufacturing in Australia. Furthermore, the Australian Government has announced initiatives for a National Rail Manufacturing Plan and a \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund that has identified transport as a priority funding area to *"ultimately help Australian industry move up the value chain to become more productive, take advantage of opportunities in a net zero economy, and address supply chain vulnerabilities."*

These commitments, including Inland Rail, provide a compelling case for Australia's own Freight 2030 approach or alignment with the US initiative.

On behalf of Wabtec, I would welcome the opportunity to provide any additional information or clarification to Dr Schott and Review Secretariat.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wendy McMillan".

Wendy McMillan
Senior Regional Vice President South East Asia, Australia and New Zealand
Wabtec Corporation