

MEDIA RELEASE

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ARA Welcomes FastRail Studies

ARA welcomes today's announcement from the NSW Government of an investigation into the establishment of fast rail options linking regional centres to each other and Sydney.

"Fast Rail reduces travelling times, allowing transformation of regional centres," said ARA CEO Danny Broad.

"It can facilitate decentralisation and revitalise regional centres, complementing effective integrated transport options within and between our cities," he said.

"Other key benefits include easing of road congestion, and reduction of carbon and other polluting emissions."

Today the NSW Government announced that High Speed Rail Expert Professor Andrew McNaughton will lead studies into four possible routes:

1. Northern Route, including Central Coast and Newcastle
2. Southern Inland Route, including Gold Coast and Canberra
3. Western Route including Lithgow, Bathurst and Orange/Parkes
4. Southern Coastal Route including Wollongong and Nowra.

The study will look at short term improvements as well as long term planning.

Fast Rail requires modifications to existing rail infrastructure to allow increase of speed. It usually allows for travel speeds of up to 200km/h.

High Speed Rail, which can reach speeds in excess of 250km/h requires a dedicated rail corridor, increasing cost and time to deliver in comparison.

"Governments around the country have already committed to over \$100 Billion of rail projects nationally over the next 10 years, consisting of city metros, light rail and Inland Rail," Mr Broad continued.

"Fast Rail would naturally complement existing investments."

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