

FACT SHEET:

# FASTER RAIL IN AUSTRALIA

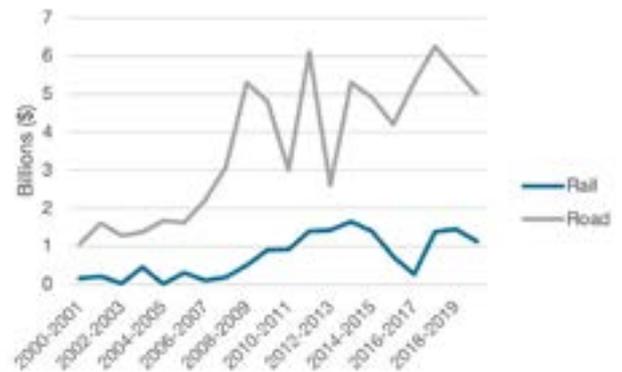
With almost 10 million additional people expected to live in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane by 2060, faster rail services will be essential to support the growing number of people living further away from city centres. Chronic under-investment over decades means urgent action is needed now to ensure fast, reliable and more frequent rail services between major city CBDs and their neighbouring regional centres.

## FASTER RAIL WILL TAKE CARS OFF THE ROAD – BUT MORE INVESTMENT IS NEEDED

Federal Government investment in rail has lagged behind road funding for decades – and travellers are paying the price. Right now, rail journeys between Sydney and Newcastle can take an hour longer than the same trip by road, or similar rail journeys in the UK or the US.

Targeted investment will enable rail travel times on regional lines to compete with road, and make choosing rail as your transport mode of choice a much more realistic option. This will help avoid traffic gridlock and reduce transport-related emissions on our roads as populations rise.

## Federal Government investment in rail



Source: Australian Government Budget Papers 1 (Various years)

## THREE STEPS TO FASTER RAIL



### 1. Act now to deliver faster rail

Upgrade existing rail lines to deliver faster, more reliable and more frequent services. Achieve top speeds on the network from 160km/h to 200km/h so rail travel times compete with road.



### 2. Establish new fast rail lines in the next five to 10 years

Build new tracks, deliver improvements to the existing network and purchase new trains to achieve speeds from 200km/h to 250km/h.



### 3. Prepare for high speed rail

While high speed rail travelling more than 250km/h is a longer term ambition, rail corridors must be secured now to minimise project costs.



## DELIVERING A FASTER RAIL NETWORK IN AUSTRALIA

A coordinated, national approach is required to deliver faster, more reliable and more frequent services. The pathway to success requires clear commitment from Federal and state governments to meet Australia's long-term needs.



### Develop a long-term vision for the rail network

Expand the existing Faster Rail Program to include the immediate upgrade of the regional rail network as part of a national rail network plan.



### Establish a governance framework to deliver faster rail

Establish a governance model through mega-region deals that give transport authorities the ability to develop station precincts. Ensure responsibilities are clearly outlined to help fully realise the benefits of faster rail projects.



### Support better social and economic outcomes for the regions

Regional centres can realise significant economic opportunities through development surrounding faster rail stations. Planning for faster rail should include community consultation to identify the unique social and economic opportunities for towns along the rail corridor to maximise the benefits faster rail can deliver.



### Develop a coordinated funding approach

Develop an investment strategy for the National Rail Plan that sees all three levels of government working together to determine funding for faster rail projects.



### Establish a policy framework for the consistent delivery of faster rail

Work with Infrastructure Australia to develop a place-based business case and appraisal framework that considers the wider social and economic benefits faster rail connections will deliver. Develop a national transport network to inform population planning, and establish post opening project evaluations to evaluate project successes.



### Stage and target investment in rail

Act now by investing in regional rail improvements to increase speed, frequency and reliability. Deliver fast rail lines over the next five to 10 years and prepare for high speed rail by preserving the rail corridor.