



AUSTRALASIAN RAILWAY ASSOCIATION INC

Association Number A03958 ABN 64 217 302 489

6 November 2008

Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Consultation
c/-Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Working Group,

Re: Australasian Railway Association (ARA) Submission to the Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Working Group

I refer to your invitation to respond to the Australian Transport Commission (ATC) and the Environmental Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Discussion Paper.

The ARA commends the ATC and EPHC in providing a forum to discuss this increasingly significant issue.

The ARA recommends that the most effective way to address fuel and transport efficiency issues is via mode shift. In other words, by replacing passengers and freight trips that are energy inefficient to those that are more energy efficient.

Greater use of both passenger and freight rail will benefit business, the environment and the Australian community in general. Rail transport is around four times as energy efficient as road transport for freight and twice as efficient as for moving people. These efficiencies are much higher for tasks with higher demand.

If Australia is to achieve its emissions reduction targets, a significant increase in rail transport must be part of the solution. The ARA believes that rail should be the preferred mode of transport for high volume, long distance freight including all intermodal freight between capital cities, bulk freight and mass public transport.

Yours sincerely,

Bryan Nye
Chief Executive Officer