

13 October 2011

Project Team – Exploring the opportunities for reform discussion paper  
National Transport Commission  
Level 15, 628 Bourke Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

Submitted via email: [enquiries@ntc.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@ntc.gov.au)

Dear Project Team,

On behalf of the Queensland business community, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback into the National Transport Commission's (NTC's) discussion paper *Exploring the opportunities for reform: Smart transport for a growing nation project*. CCIQ is strongly supportive of the NTC obtaining feedback from stakeholders in order to improve the passenger transport system through its future work program.

CCIQ has recently completed a Transport Blueprint which provides a Queensland business perspective of how to improve transport infrastructure to drive business and economic growth and enhance productivity. Although this Blueprint incorporates a broader focus than passenger transport, CCIQ believes the findings are relevant to the work of the NTC and the identification of opportunities to improve the transport system. We are optimistic that the attached CCIQ Transport Blueprint will assist in the finalisation of the NTC's position paper by December 2011.

As part of the Transport Blueprint, CCIQ undertook a survey of more than 700 businesses. Similar to the outcomes of the NTC survey, Queensland businesses believe more needs to be done to build a more sustainable transport system that meets the needs of a growing population and economy. The attached CCIQ Transport Blueprint includes a focus on a number of areas that would assist in this regard including government planning and priority setting; funding mechanisms and private sector involvement; overcoming capacity constraints; connectivity and system integration; enhancing the competitiveness of transport networks and building stronger regions.

Overall, CCIQ would like to stress the following key points for consideration by the NTC:

- Both State and Federal Governments need to take a strong leadership role in growing the economy and in planning, prioritising and delivering the transport infrastructure that will drive economic development and enhance productivity;
- A long term planning approach needs to be adopted that identifies key infrastructure needs within all regions and an associated timeline for their delivery. Identifying and prioritising long term priorities (ie over the coming 20 years) will help drive economic and regional growth by providing signals to the business community on where infrastructure development will occur moving forward;

- Regular audits and surveys should be undertaken to identify capacity constraints and infrastructure gaps, with associated strategies developed to address identified challenges in every region. Timelines should continue to be updated to provide increased certainty and direction for businesses that allow them to make informed decisions about investment and expansion activities;
- Increased focus is required on using existing transport infrastructure more efficiently. Feedback is often received about the underutilisation of transport infrastructure, particularly in regional areas. One common example is the rail system with many lines continuing to be underutilised which is resulting in delays and lost sales. Using infrastructure more efficiently is likely to have positive impacts on the capacity of existing networks and help reduce overall costs and potentially free up more funding for delivering additional infrastructure priorities;
- Strategies need to be developed and implemented to reduce the cost of using the transport network. Currently the rising costs associated with using this infrastructure are negatively impacting on the competitiveness of businesses and the attractiveness of using particular transport networks. Subsequently, CCIQ is supportive of exploring other options prior to introducing any road pricing, congestion and associated taxation reforms;
- There is also a need for implementing strategies to reduce the heavy reliance on the road network by enhancing the feasibility of using other modes of transport for both social and economic activities;
- CCIQ is strongly supportive of reviewing the current approach to infrastructure funding and provision. This review should include how to use government resources more efficiently and identify alternative funding mechanisms. CCIQ is also strongly supportive of placing increased attention on how to encourage and increase private sector participation in the delivery, management and operation of transport networks.

CCIQ trusts that the feedback provided in this correspondence and the attached Blueprint will prove useful in finalising the NTC's position paper on opportunities for reform. If you have any questions regarding this correspondence please contact Senior Policy Analyst Leanne Connell on (07) 3842 2237 or email [lconnell@cciq.com.au](mailto:lconnell@cciq.com.au).

Yours Sincerely



Nick Behrens  
**General Manager, Advocacy**  
**Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland**

Attachment:

1. Improving Queensland's transport networks to enhance productivity and drive economic growth: Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland Transport Blueprint