

JOINT NEWS RELEASE

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Tender process for Maldon-Dombarton rail link feasibility study welcomed

We welcome the announcement today by the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Anthony Albanese MP, that a tender process to undertake the Maldon-Dombarton rail link feasibility study has been opened.

Independent consultants interested in conducting the feasibility study have until 4 December 2009 to register with the Department.

Today's announcement follows the allocation of \$3 million to the feasibility study process by Treasurer, Wayne Swan MP, during a visit to Wollongong in July.

The conduct of a full feasibility study was the key recommendation of a report published in July, which found that completing the Maldon-Dombarton rail line had economic merit, including:

- Provide a strategic alternative to the current Moss Vale-Unanderra and Illawarra lines for freight trains;
- Support the Port of Port Kembla's rapidly expanding commercial activities, and;
- Generate considerable employment within the local construction industry.

The feasibility study into a possible Maldon-Dombarton rail link will provide more detailed scoping work, and dove-tail with national port and freight strategies under development by *Infrastructure Australia*.

Infrastructure Australia Co-ordinator, Michael Deegan, also visited Wollongong in July to discuss the expansion of the Port of Port Kembla and its role in a National Port Strategy (NPS).

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