



## The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

Minister for Infrastructure,  
Transport, Regional Development  
and Local Government  
Leader of the House

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# Media Statement

## TENDER AWARDED FOR MALDON TO DOMBARTON RAIL LINK STUDY

ACIL Tasman Pty Ltd and Hyder Consulting Plc have been selected to conduct the feasibility study into a possible rail line between Maldon and Port Kembla via Dombarton.

Federal Infrastructure and Transport Minister Anthony Albanese said the two independent consultants that have been appointed to undertake the \$3 million study bring with them extensive experience and expertise.

“Their task will be to calculate accurate costing figures and determine the viability of building a 35 kilometre standard gauge rail line connecting the Illawarra Line from Wollongong to the Main Southern Line running from Sydney via Campbelltown,” said Mr Albanese.

“In making these conclusions the study will assess existing infrastructure, engineering requirements and likely demand for the proposed line, as well as undertake detailed economic and financial modelling.”

Commissioning of this detailed planning work follows an earlier pre-feasibility study which found that completing the rail line has long term economic merit but more work needed to be done before sensible investment decisions could be made.

“The Illawarra community will welcome the commitment by the Federal Labor Government to the next stage of evaluating the completion of the rail link,” said Throsby MP Jennie George.

Cunningham MP Sharon Bird said: “This is an important part of determining the feasibility of the possible completion of the Maldon-Dombarton rail link. I am looking forward to the study’s conclusions”.

The study’s outcomes will also be fed into the comprehensive national port and freight strategies currently being developed by *Infrastructure Australia*.

The feasibility study is expected to be completed by mid 2011.

**Friday, 22 January 2010**