



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

November 30, 2016

David Littleproud MP secures review on Inland Rail

The Federal Member for Maranoa, David Littleproud, today announced with the Minister for Infrastructure Darren Chester, the terms of reference for a review into the proposed Inland Rail route from Yelarbon to Gowrie.

Minister Chester has today appointed former Queensland Transport Director-General, Mr Bruce Wilson AM as the Chair of the independent review panel where the panel will be tasked with providing an independent assessment of each proposed route in light of technical, engineering and economic principles to ensure that the key \$10 billion infrastructure spend meets community expectations both now and into the future.

Mr Littleproud said today, "Just three days after being elected as the Member for Maranoa, I attended the impacted landholders meeting in Millwood on the proposed Millmerran/Cecil Plains alignment, and the lack of engagement with landholders was both obvious and concerning to me.

"After raising my concerns with the Minister, I am pleased that an up-to-date review will now take place under the Minister's careful consideration on all three route options, including the Warwick/Toowoomba airport alignment, and I would like to thank Minister Chester for working with me on this."

"The Review's terms of reference will require the final endorsement of any alignment to be determined on open and transparent evidence on a like for like basis so that the community can have confidence in the end result." Mr Littleproud said.

"I have no doubt that this transparent and open review process will not only restore community confidence in this vital project but ultimately serve to expedite decisions on the Inland Rail's future in Queensland.

"This project is extremely important as it will unlock more than \$22.5 billion of direct and indirect benefits for Australia and I believe that this will be particularly true for our agricultural communities in Queensland who are looking to access new markets.

"Inland Rail is part of a broader Governmental strategy to improve the expected capacity of our national freight network from Melbourne to Brisbane before 2050 and given it is our only shot at this, I am glad we now have this opportunity to get it 100 percent right."

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