

Submission on the Adelaide Rail Freight Movements Study
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Local Government.
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601



We, the Hampel Family from Hampel Vineyards, would like to make a submission re the Adelaide Rail Freight Movements Study, as presented in your Discussion Paper dated October 2009. We are a family owned vineyard business operating in the Northern end of the Barossa Valley. Our main concern is the proposed railway line which appears in detail on map received from your office. This railway line will be near to and possibly cut through prime vineyard producing land. Our area of the valley is world renowned for its quality grapes in particular it's Shiraz as per example Penfold's Grange is grown next to one of our properties. There are many iconic wine labels to come from this area including Ebenezer, Koonunga & Kalimna. Many blocks in this area have century old grape vines. As it is a premium wine growing area the wineries will also suffer if not enough high grade fruit is produced.

This area is a German Heritage, tightly knit community with most vineyards/farming land having been passed from generation to generation. The people here have a strong Christian ethic and are known for being honest and hard working. To have a railway go through this area would be quite disastrous as most families have smaller holdings and losing this valuable land to a proposed railway could mean the breakdown of the family vineyard because there is insufficient land left to make an income. Even if they were paid good money there is no ongoing income and the generational effect will be detrimental to this family orientated community where high emphasis has always been placed on the continuing tradition of passing property from generation to generation. This would ruin the spirit of this local community where relationships are highly valued and where the local agricultural bureau, church groups, youth groups etc provide a local support network. Every one cares for one another and is aware when someone needs help and is more than willing to do so.

This unique area is peaceful and unspoilt and one a few places left where you can go outside and not hear anything and it would be such a shame to see that spoilt. To have large freight trains as close to the Barossa area as appears on your map would be very detrimental to the flourishing tourist industry in this world renowned and unique area. Even though they may not be seen they will still be heard – people can go to the city to hear these noises. They come to the country for peace and quiet.

Surely the freight line is better suited where it is with the necessary upgrading taking place at a fraction of the cost of a new line. I'm certain that the majority of the local population would agree that this area is unique and it seems that every day more and more pressure is being put onto it to conform to changes that will make the beautiful Barossa Valley just like anywhere else. **WHY?**

The land in question is good valuable farming land well suited to grain growing, viticulture and prime lamb/wool/cattle production. It seems to us that the government is allowing infrastructure to be built in many places of good farming land where food is grown and leaving the poorer land, which could be utilised for infrastructure. At the end of the day we cannot eat buildings or railway lines.

There are already existing corridors from former railway lines eg between Kapunda – Eudunda –Morgan. The land to the north of the Barossa Hills which is quite flat eg Stonefield area would be a lot less expensive to buy and is a lot less reliable in the area of broad acre farming. May be with a slight diversion some of these old railway corridors could be reused and combine with a line across these flat less profitable areas of the state.

Thank you for taking the time to read our submission and we implore you to reconsider this plan for Adelaide Rail Freight Movement.

Yours faithfully

Cheryl Hampel

For Keith, Cheryl, Jonathon, Amanda, Cathryn & Matthew Hampel

Hampel Vineyards