

Dear Sir,

Stop wasting money on Rail duplication. The amount of money spent on loss making Rail Transport is incredible and provides no real consideration of the future of transport. Rail is only good for bulk haul. In the case of Port Kembla the main consideration is coal transport. Why has the Maldon to Dombarton cost benefit study not included reopening O'Briens drift? O'Briens drift is a materials handling system in which trucks bring the coal to the top of the escarpment (between Mt Keira & Kembla on Harry Graham Dr) and it falls under gravity down below to Dendrobian Colliery were it was loaded on a train and moved to Port Kembla. It stops truck having to waste fuel climbing up Mt Ousley empty. It already exists so its reopening should be considered as a low cost alternative.

The Picton Road and Appin road will need to be upgraded to dual divided roads regardless so spend the money on this instead of Maldon to Dombarton.

There is no evidence that road safety will be improved by taking trucks off the road. Most fatality accidents are the fault of the car driver and a lot are suicide. Reducing the chances of a head on collision is the best way to reduce road fatalities. I drive on the roads from Port Kembla to the Hume hwy all the time and I never thought there were too many trucks on the road.

You must realise that roads and road upgrades are justified due to their use by commercial vehicles. No trucks, no justification to spend on the road and no barrier to head on impacts.

It is incredible how we are using low emissions and fuel use of Rail to justify the use of coal. The recent report on green house gas emissions in Australia shows the power generation industry is the biggest green house gas emitter by far using coal (the worst green house gas) for its fuel.

Australia has abundant methane - natural gas (the cleanest fossil fuel) which can fuel both heavy vehicles with efficient diesel engines and the gas turbines of power stations and reduce the dependance on foreign oil (balance of trade). If the methane is not used as a fuel and escapes into the atmosphere it will become a green house gas anyway so we need to start using it up.

The transport task is door to door and the future of transport is in improving the efficiency of road and air. Rail is nineteenth century technology. Rail is currently only justified in two areas. Bulk Haul freight from mine to port or high density passenger. Both of these should be privatised. Let the miners pay for the Rail. Mining is the most profitable industry and was going to be taxed accordingly. If its unpopular to tax them make them pay for the rail infrastructure. Stick to this and we wont be wasting the communities money on anymore Rail white elephant projects.

Review of Transport Task should include; 1. Dedicated Road Freight Corridor paving over Rail Tracks eliminating Rail

Larger heavier vehicle combinations would be allowed to use it. Separating heavy and light vehicles.

2. Natural Gas Refueling Infrastructure. Switch to natural gas (alternative fuel) economy. A stepping stone to hydrogen.

3. Heavy Vehicle Partial Automation. Improve Road safety hands free vehicle operation on long distance dual carriage ways.

Best Regards

Tony Kotevski.