

13 October 2022

Julie Abramson  
Commissioner  
Australia's Maritime Logistics System  
Productivity Commission  
Locked Bag 2, Collins St East  
Melbourne Vic 8003, Australia

Dear Commissioner,

**Submission: Lifting productivity at Australia's container ports: between water, wharf, and warehouse.**

On behalf of the Narrabri Industrial Network Inc. we thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the Productivity Commission's Draft Report into the performance of Australia's Maritime Logistics System.

The Narrabri Industrial Network Inc. ("NIN") is a member driven, non-for-profit organisation connecting like-minded businesses with resources, facilities, and opportunities for members to connect, innovate, adapt, and prosper.

NIN aims to ensure the Narrabri region continues to diversify, grow sustainably and benefit from major investment, NIN proactively:

- Advocates for major investment and infrastructure development to support regional growth and diversity within our region.
- Promotes the benefits of living, working, and investing in the Narrabri Area.
- Grow our community, skilled and future workforce.
- Advocates for our region with all levels of government.

NIN has identified four key activity areas being:

1. Agriculture
2. Resources, Energy & Infrastructure
3. Information
4. Advocacy

For more information, please visit the [Narrabri Industrial Network Inc.](http://www.narrabriindustrial.com.au) website.

As stated above, NIN has as its primary key activity area; Agriculture. The agriculture industry is a major contributor to the New South Wales and Narrabri regional economy, creating employment opportunities and delivering a range of significant broader benefits for the state and our region.

Our region is recognised for its diverse agriculture sector comprising of cotton, wheat, beef cattle, sheep and pulse crops and is highly productive region in New South Wales.

There is a significant amount of untapped potential in the region's agriculture sector with a massive increase in production resulting from high prices, ideal conditions, and technological advancements, allowing producers to grow numerous crops on a broader scale. This increase in production has been a massive boost to our regional economy and our community – we need to ensure we capitalise on every dollar.

Therefore NIN, in the interests of the agricultural and broader industries, is committed to supporting developments and improvements in the capacity and reliability of supply chains that enable local produce to get to port.

Transporting local product to port is one of the major challenges our members currently face. Storage solutions in regional areas are at full capacity and the rail lines are congested; these issues are putting pressure on cash flow and manifesting into additional costs for local producers. Costs can increase by more than \$500 per container from additional freight travel, which can be upwards of an additional 200km. This additional freight travel evidently results in revenue leaving our region.

Allowing the development of a container port at Newcastle will equate to more revenue return to our regional producers. NIN wholeheartedly supports any development that enables profits to stay within regional communities, allowing support for increased population and a sustainable supply chain model for regional NSW.

NIN are in full support of developments at the Port of Newcastle; our region needs a solution to transport our quality produce to port that is cost effective and can be achieved in the best possible time frame.

It is important that NIN and other stakeholder groups within the Narrabri region are consulted and represented in the report prior to the finalisation of the report.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with NIN Business Development Manager, Kodey Stanford by email on [info@narrabriindustrial.com.au](mailto:info@narrabriindustrial.com.au).

We look forward to ongoing consultation with the Commission on the draft Report.

Yours sincerely,

**Justin Smith**  
President  
Narrabri Industrial Network Inc.