

MELBOURNE PORT CORPORATION

2 October, 1998

Progress in Rail Reform Inquiry
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2
Collins Street East PO
Melbourne VIC 8003

Dear Sir/Madam

File No 050-5002-2079

RAIL REFORM INQUIRY

The Melbourne Port Corporation (MPC) was established in March 1996 as part of the Victorian State Government's port reform program. MPC is the landlord for the Port of Melbourne and its responsibilities are to plan and co-ordinate the development of Port land and infrastructure and to make these assets available to port services providers.

MPC has reviewed the 'Issues Paper' and consider that the following are relevant considerations for the inquiry:

The Port of Melbourne is the largest container and general cargo port in Australia. The level of trade is dependent on, among other things, land transport infrastructure;

Rail connections to shipping terminals are important for continued growth and transport logistics objectives;

Rail connections to the Webb Dock area are critical to this area of the Port;

The inquiry should consider the provision of double stack capability between Melbourne and Adelaide as is the case between Adelaide and Perth. While double stacking to Sydney and Brisbane would be much more difficult this should also be considered;

No access is currently available from Docklink road for the V Line terminal. This could reduce transport costs; and

The setting up of regional hubs to provide intermodal transport facilities in rural areas maybe desirable. This could occur in places such as Bordertown as this is close to the riverland which means products would be shipped overseas quicker.

MPC does not believe it is necessary to make a formal presentation at the Public Hearing however it is interested in being kept informed on the progress of this review.

A copy of this letter has been emailed as requested in your documentation.

If you require any further information or assistance please call Mr Nick Easy, Manager Port Logistics and Planning by telephone on 9628 7540.