

Rail is key, but the Sea is free

The \$8.4 billion to build the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail, shows a commitment by the government to improving freight links around the country.

Teresa Lloyd, CEO of Maritime Industry Australia Limited (MIAL) the country's largest representative of maritime interests, says "it's great news that the government has prioritised the nation's freight needs. Shipping of course is the most cost effective, environmentally sustainable form of long haul transport. The sea is free, the port infrastructure already exists. A fraction of that commitment being directed to our sea highway would greatly enhance the competitiveness of shipping vs surface transport and increase the market share of this form of transport, with economic and environmental benefits.

"Specifically, public investment in the infrastructure to encourage dedicated coastal shipping services would have immediate impact and give investors the confidence to provide shipping as a transport option."

The NSW Freight and Ports Strategy released in November 2013 estimates that each one per cent increase in freight efficiency saves the national economy \$1.5 billion.

"There is little doubt that with a modest commitment from the government, shipping could deliver *at least* a \$1.5bn efficiency gain" says Ms Lloyd.



Photo courtesy of ANL Container Line Pty Ltd



Teresa Lloyd, CEO – Maritime Industry Australia Ltd

End Release.

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Maritime Industry Australia Ltd (MIAL) represent the collective interests of maritime businesses, primarily those operating maritime assets or facilities from Australia. MIAL is uniquely positioned to provide dedicated maritime expertise and advice, and is driven to promote a sustainable, vibrant and competitive Australian maritime industry and to expand the Australian maritime cluster.
