



Contents

1	Terms of Reference	2
1.1	Key Issues	2

© Ernst & Young 2006

This communication provides general information, current as at the time of production. Our report may be relied upon by the Department of Transport and Regional Services for the purpose of the North-South Rail Corridor Study only pursuant to the engagement contract dated 9 September 2005. We disclaim all responsibility to any other party for any loss or liability that the other party may suffer or incur arising from or relating to or in any way connected with the contents of our report, the provision of our report to the other party or the reliance upon our report by the other party. Data incorporated in this report has been received in good faith by the Study Team and has not been audited. Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.



1 Terms of Reference

The scope of the Study was defined by the following “Key Issues”.

1.1 Key Issues

- Market requirements and options
 - Define the current transport freight market (including rail) and its needs and requirements for the corridor and level of service currently in place. Identify and survey potential clients for their plans and preferences for development of rail market between Melbourne-Sydney-Brisbane.
 - Assess the major infrastructure requirements for rail to serve the Melbourne-Sydney-Brisbane corridor (and feeder regions) in the future.
 - Assess infrastructure capability and train operations requirements – existing and/or future constraints including but not necessarily limited to speed of freight trains, single/double stacking, axle loads, container sizes, train lengths, end-to-end journey times, rolling stock requirements and fleet planning
- Demand studies
 - Provide freight and passenger projections for 5, 10, 20 and 25 years on the corridor, in consultation with the Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics
 - Estimate potential to generate new and contestable freight traffic by sector or mode on the corridor having regard to different pricing, reliability and transit time scenarios
 - Report on anticipated location and timing of future capacity constraints. High level identification and analysis of options to overcome capacity constraints, including optimum timeframe for additional investment in track and rolling stock
 - Examine the use of technology such as ATMS and Communication systems to enhance track utilisation
- Route options
 - Outline current investment plans and timing of additional planned infrastructure on the corridor. Describe the track works, systems and facility improvements underway and the benefits and implications of those works
 - Examine future infrastructure investment route and cost options for the corridor eg Melbourne/Brisbane inland rail routes, and expansion and upgrade of coastal route north of Sydney
 - Examine the need for and implications of reservation/acquisition of land corridors
 - Outline engineering (track laying, track upgrades, tunnelling requirements, Toowoomba range), environmental and urban and regional planning issues associated with corridor infrastructure investment options. This analysis needs to include issues relevant to terminals and possible multiple benefits from investments e.g. for commuters



- Short-list options for corridor investment for further consideration and the cost/benefits of such investment, identifying the respective strengths and weaknesses of each. Ultimately the study is looking at rail options on the corridor from a national transport network perspective
- Other transport infrastructure
 - Implications of each of the short listed options, including cost implications, for connecting road infrastructure, connections to ports at Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, as well as intermodal terminals, regional hubs and feeder lines are to be examined and tested against existing state planning requirements
- Financial and economic analysis
 - Using the detailed costings from (c), undertake initial financial and economic analysis of the options, including potential regional benefits and costs. Revenue and cash flow projections should take into account current and likely future pricing structures, access issues, track management, infrastructure access and usage fees
 - On the basis of available data and making clear any reservations and/or data deficiencies, provide a cost/benefit analysis, including assessment of appropriate timing for infrastructure investment, social and regional benefits and other externalities eg benefits to commuter traffic, and any financial or regulatory impediments to future investment
- Environmental issues
 - Provide an overview of the environmental issues that are involved with or are likely to arise from each of the short-listed options
- Any other issues the Project Manager considers relevant

North-South Rail Corridor Study – Detailed Study Report

Commissioned by the Department of Transport and Regional Services.



This page intentionally blank