

Rail Productivity Review 2008

Terms of Reference

The NTC will be undertaking a review of rail productivity within the Australian rail sector. The review aims to identify impediments to increased rail productivity for both passenger and freight rail and mechanisms for overcoming these impediments, with particular emphasis on the appropriate role of government in addressing productivity concerns. The review will be completed and its findings released early in 2009.

In undertaking this review the NTC will:

1. Research and explore the current operation of freight and passenger rail in Australia.
2. Identify and analyse the issues impacting on rail productivity and their causes. This will include the impact of government policy and intervention, industry structure, asset utilisation and management, the rail network, business and operational systems and the interaction of rail with other modes.
3. Determine the appropriate role for government within the rail sector and establish the boundaries of responsibility for both industry and government in terms of providing rail services and infrastructure and addressing problems within the rail sector.
4. Identify and evaluate possible actions to address rail productivity, with primary focus on how government can effectively improve productivity in the rail sector.
5. Conduct extensive consultation with stakeholders, including rail industry operators, rail customers, government, unions and other interested parties. This will include stakeholder workshops, submissions from interested parties and targeted discussions with relevant stakeholders.
6. An Issues Paper will be released for comment shortly.
7. Release a Draft Position Paper in November 2008 for comment.
8. Release Final Position Paper in March/April 2009.