

# Media Release

**The Hon Jacinta Allan MP**  
Minister for Public Transport  
Minister for Major Projects



Wednesday, 1 November, 2017

## **EXPERT BODY TO IMPROVE VICTORIA'S FREIGHT RAIL NETWORK**

Leading industry representatives will come together this week to provide advice to V/Line regarding proposed rail heat restrictions for this summer.

Minister for Public Transport Jacinta Allan today announced the establishment of a Rail Freight Advisory Council to share information and make recommendations to improve Victoria's rail freight network.

The Council will be chaired by industry leader and former president of the Victorian Farmers Federation Peter Tuohey and provide advice to V/Line on the requirements of the rail freight industry to deliver a customer focused, safe and efficient rail freight network.

Mr Tuohey brings great expertise and knowledge of the freight and farming industries will be vital in identifying the requirements of the entire supply chain and finding solutions to issues.

The group will come together this Thursday and will begin reviewing V/Line's proposed heat restrictions for this summer.

Going forward, the group will provide regular communication and consultation across the entire rail freight industry, including farmers, freight train operations and V/Line.

It will provide advice to V/Line on operational requirements, restrictions and rail freight project delivery including the Murray Basin Rail Project currently underway.

The recommendations will be used to improve V/Line's rail freight procedures and ensure Victoria's freight network is best placed to meet the needs of the industry.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Public Transport Jacinta Allan**

*"Our farmers and primary industries across Victoria rely on the rail freight network – it's vital we make it as efficient and safe as possible."*

*"With the Murray Basin Rail Project underway to revitalise our freight network, this group will look at the entire supply chain from farm to port and recommend ways to make it easier for farmers to transport their produce."*

### **Quotes attributable to Chair of the Rail Freight Advisory Council Peter Tuohey**

*"This group will enable regular communication across the entire rail freight industry, including farmers, freight train operators, port managers and V/Line."*

*"The council will be ideally placed to provide expert advice to V/Line on operational requirements, heat and temporary speed restrictions and rail freight project delivery including the Murray Basin Rail Project."*