



30 August 2012

Director General
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Attention: Ms Diane Sarkies

Dear Ms Sarkies

EXHIBITION – SSI-4992 Hexham Relief Roads

I refer to the Application SSI-4992 currently on public exhibition for the development of the rail infrastructure by Australian Rail Track Corporation, known as the Hexham Relief Roads.

Newcastle Port Corporation is committed to working with port users, rail track and train providers to expand the operational capacity of the rail network servicing the Port of Newcastle.

The expansion of coal exports through the Port of Newcastle will be exclusively handled on rail. The development of Five Up Relief Roads and ancillary infrastructure and access tracks, at Hexham are a critical project for the expansion of the Hunter Valley coal supply chain. The project will help to alleviate congestion in the rail network servicing the port and better allow the supply chain to meet the coal export demand.

Newcastle Port Corporation supports the project due to its positive impact on coal chain efficiency and capacity.

Yours sincerely

Michael Dowzer
GENERAL MANAGER
STRATEGY, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNANCE

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