



21 December 2012

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

Attention: Mr Mick Fallon

Dear Mr Fallon

**AGENCY SUBMISSION: MP 07_0171 PROJECT APPLICATION
TRAIN SUPPORT FACILITY - HEXHAM**

I refer to the above application currently on public exhibition for the construction and operation of a train support facility at Hexham proposed by QR National.

Newcastle Port Corporation (NPC) is a State Owned Corporation whose principal objectives are prescribed in the *Ports and Maritime Administration Act 1995* and the *State Owned Corporations Act 1989*. These objectives compel NPC to facilitate and coordinate improvements in the productivity and efficiency of the port related supply chains, including the Hunter Valley Coal Chain.

The movement of coal through the Hunter Valley Coal Chain occurs on Australia's third busiest rail network, with the majority of coal exported from the port delivered to the coal terminals by rail. As a result, congestion on the rail network can reduce the productivity and efficiency of the Coal Chain.

NPC is supportive of the proposed train support facility at Hexham on the basis Hunter Valley Coal Chain Coordinator's modelling reveals it will improve the efficiency of the Coal Chain. It will help alleviate congestion on the rail network servicing the port. It will also facilitate the removal of existing QR National rail facilities on Kooragang Island. This in turn will help improve the productivity and efficiency of the Hunter Valley Coal Chain.

Yours sincerely

Michael Dowzer
GENERAL MANAGER STRATEGY, EFFICIENCY AND STRATEGY