

30 June 2017

Berrima Rail Project

The Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd (ARTC) is lodging this letter in relation to the proposed development of an extension to the Berrima Branch Line, to connect the proposed Hume Coal Mine to the Main Southern Railway.

ARTC is a Government Business Enterprise, 100% owned by the Australian Government. ARTC is Australia's largest freight rail network operator with nearly 20 years of experience in operating, maintaining and building rail infrastructure.

ARTC was established to modernise rail in Australia - to provide the transport and logistics industry with a safe and reliable network that would support the many industries that Australia's economy depends on as well as deliver Government policy through rail investment.

ARTC's experienced team has delivered billions of dollars' worth of investment to revive our rail network. The ARTC network operates across five states and transports intermodal containers between our capital cities, agricultural products, general freight and passenger services, as well as coal and minerals products.

ARTC has been engaging with Hume Coal in relation to their project since 2013. Hume Coal has provided significant detail in relation to their proposed rail operations and has supported ARTC with the background necessary for us to consider this project and reflect in our future plans.

As noted above ARTC is focussed on improving the performance of its rail network and this includes increasing the utilisation of its infrastructure. ARTC operates the network on a commercial basis, providing dividend payments to its Australian Government shareholders and as such aims to increase freight volumes on the rail network. The Hume Coal project would be an important development in supporting increased utilisation of the interstate rail network. The use of rail to transport freight provides broad benefits to the community in relation to reduced congestion, safety and environmental performance.

ARTC has well developed infrastructure plans that identify future traffics and capacity requirements. Should the Hume Coal project be brought to production then ARTC considers that the capacity requirements would be accommodated within its infrastructure plans.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries on 08 8217 4314 or via email sormsby@artc.com.au.

Yours sincerely



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