

Mr Matthew Schroder
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Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
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Dear Mr Schroder,

GrainCorp Support for Maroona to Portland Rail Line Upgrade

As a key stakeholder in the freight supply chain, we fully support the initiative to upgrade the Maroona to Portland rail line and recognize the significant benefits it will bring to our industry and the broader community both regionally and internationally.

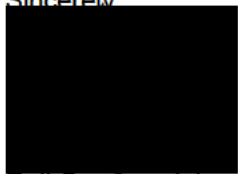
Efficient infrastructure networks are crucial for facilitating trade and economic development domestically and internationally, and we acknowledge the pivotal role the Maroona to Portland rail line plays in this regard. We are aware of the challenges posed by the current state of this rail line, including ongoing reduced speeds and the need to rely on road transport to carry out the movements that would otherwise occur on this rail line. These challenges not only impact rail capacity to deliver into the export market but also impacts the value and competitiveness of local grain in the upstream market.

The findings outlined in the ARTC Maroona to Portland Rail Line Business Case aligns with our own observations and experiences. We agree that upgrading this rail line is the preferred investment strategy to address the existing problems and unlock the full potential of benefits for the region and beyond. The anticipated upgrade to a performance specification of 23 TAL / 60 km/h expected to significantly increase rail mode share and deliver net community benefits for Western Victoria.

Furthermore, we support the four key benefit statements identified in the ARTC Maroona to Portland Rail Line Business Case. The expected improvements in commercial sustainability, competitiveness of regional industries, supply chain reliability and resilience, community amenity and safety align closely with our own goals and objectives.

In light of the above, we hereby express our full support for the upgrade to the Maroona to Portland rail line. We are committed to contributing to the realisation of these benefits and are willing to provide further submissions or assistance as needed.

Sincerely,



Rail Commercial and Contracts Manager
GrainCorp