



AUSTRALIAN RAIL TRACK CORPORATION LTD

South Sydney Freight Line Environmental Assessment Now on Public Exhibition

An important milestone has been reached for the new Southern Sydney Freight Line with approval having been given by the New South Wales government for its Environmental Assessment to go on public exhibition.

Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd (ARTC) advises that the environmental assessment (EA) of the Southern Sydney Freight Line is on public exhibition from 3 May to 2 June 2006 at local council chambers and libraries.

An electronic copy of the EA can also be downloaded in PDF file format from the ARTC project webpage by following the link (www.ssfl.com.au). Members of the public are invited to make a written comment on the EA to the Department of Planning by 2 June 2006, with public notifications on the webpage for contact details.

The SSFL is a dedicated freight line to be built along the existing rail corridor from Macarthur to Sefton to serve the Port of Botany in Sydney. The \$200 million South Sydney Freight Line is part of ARTC's \$1.4 billion upgrade of the North South Corridor.

The separate freight line will improve freight connections to the Port of Botany and also remove the present requirement for freight trains to give priority to passenger trains on the metropolitan line. Sydney passenger trains will also benefit from the removal of freight trains to their own dedicated line. The Southern Sydney Freight Line is due for completion by the beginning of 2009.

2 May 2006