



Urban Mobility

2. Rail Initiatives for Urban Mobility

National Passenger Transport Agenda

The ARA launched its ***National Passenger Transport Agenda*** in November 2006. The Agenda was commissioned to provide a way ahead to significantly improve the effectiveness of Australia's public transport sector. It presents an integrated and coordinated approach to public transport, involving all levels of government, public transport operators and the business community.

This is a pressing matter that impacts on economic, environmental, health and social issues. Australia is the only OECD country without a national 'moving people' strategy. With petrol prices driving a rise in public transport patronage, impacting on already constrained passenger systems, action is needed now to bring about major improvements in our public transport system.

The ***National Passenger Transport Agenda*** presents the status quo of public transport in Australia, including the challenges presented by a system that widely sees responsibility for transport issues cross various governments, departments and conflicting interests. Furthermore, it presents a compelling case for action. Most importantly, it lays down a comprehensive list of proposed actions for stakeholders.

Further Reading:

[National Passenger Transport Agenda](#)

'Moving People around Australia' – the role of rail in urban mobility

In December 2008, the ARA launched its latest passenger transport policy titled ***'Moving people around Australia – the role of rail in urban mobility'***.

This policy emphasises nationally coordinated transport planning for Cities and Regions, complemented by vital long-term funding for infrastructure to secure the future economic and environmental benefits of passenger transport in Australia. The rail industry will contribute to the enhancement of rail as a major provider of passenger transport through a rigorous and continuous improvement program informed by best overseas practice and proposes:

- the development of a National Strategic Plan that is consistent with State and Territory plans and lays out high level objectives and strategies for people movement and integrating all modes (private and public road and rail, cycling and pedestrian);
- involving a high level Transport Industry Council with representation from key Industry Groups, the National Transport Commission, Infrastructure Australia and each State and Territory jurisdiction that would oversight the implementation and relevance of the Plan. The Council to report to COAG; and
- COAG approval of the National Strategic Transport plan in 2009 comprising short, medium and long-term goals for road and rail passenger and freight services with funding allocated in 2010-11 for the initial five-years of the Plan.

The benefits of this approach include:

- long term nationally coordinated funding and underpinning planning that will optimise national capacity to effectively address strategic national and jurisdiction issues;
- improved public health through greater safety and reduced environmental impact;

- improved urban passenger services with greater reliability and frequency;
- more efficient infrastructure spending and outcomes;
- increased capacity and productivity of transport systems for passengers and freight customers; and
- better integrated town planning leading to more livable cities and towns.

Further Reading:

[Moving people around Australia – the role of rail in urban mobility'](#)

ARA Submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Investment of Commonwealth and State Funds in Public Transport Infrastructure and Services (2009)

The Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee conducted an Inquiry into the Investment of Commonwealth and State Funds in Public Transport Infrastructure and Services concluding and reporting in August 2009.

ARA based its submission to this Senate Inquiry in part on existing material contained in its National Passenger Transport Agenda 2006 and the 2008 policy statement '*Moving people around Australia – the role of rail in urban mobility*'.