

Media Release

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Tamworth one step closer to becoming a freight hub

Last night Tamworth Regional Councillors endorsed the release of an Expression of Interest (EOI) document for the design, construction and operation of the Tamworth Rail Freight Intermodal Terminal.

The Expression of Interest is the last stage of Tamworth Regional Council's submission for the Tamworth Rail Freight Intermodal Terminal. The EOI will identify the capacity of operators to run the intermodal terminal should the Barraba Spur Line be reinstated.

Tamworth Region Mayor Col Murray said the Intermodal Terminal is a critical piece of infrastructure which will provide new industry opportunities, jobs and economic benefits to the Tamworth Region.

"There is a distinct community desire evident within our Community Strategic Plan to see job growth in our Region. The establishment of a multi-user Rail Freight Intermodal Terminal will tap into major growth opportunities through Access and Infrastructure, which is one of the eight industry pillars identified for action in Council's economic development strategy, Tamworth Tomorrow 2016-2021."

"The EOI process allows us to demonstrate the capacity of operators to run a terminal and will mark the last stage of our submission to become a freight hub. The State Government will be reviewing all applications and part of their assessment will be based on the interest received."

In December 2016, Transport for NSW announced that containerized freight by rail in NSW is currently sitting at its highest level in six years¹.

"This is a growth industry and our Region would benefit significantly if we were successful in our bid," added Cr Murray.

"Expressions of Interest will be open for a period of 28 days, and will be assessed by Council and nominated consultants who are leaders in the intermodal terminal field."

In February 2016, the Regional Intermodal Taskforce met in Tamworth with Council representatives, primary producers, transport companies and interest community members to assess Tamworth's viability as an intermodal site.

An intermodal terminal is a strategic location between a freight service user or importer/exporter and a destination. It offers customers road and train transport access and short term storage.

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¹ <http://www.freight.transport.nsw.gov.au/news/nsw-ports-record-positive-growth-freight-rail>