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Tamworth Intermodal Freight Facility moving ahead

Tamworth Regional Council and Australia's largest integrated provider of import and logistic export services, Qube, today confirmed that the Tamworth Intermodal Freight Facility, within the Tamworth Global Gateway Park, is expected to be fully operational in mid-2023.

Russell Webb, Tamworth Region Mayor said that he was excited to see construction of the facility about to begin.

"The Tamworth Intermodal Freight Facility will enable suppliers, businesses and producers to have competitive rail access to ports for imports and exports, opening Tamworth up to international markets", said Cr Webb.

"With the Tamworth Global Gateway Park and intermodal facility key components of Council's Blueprint 100 strategy, the Tamworth Intermodal Freight Facility will help us continue to create a prosperous and connected region."

Qube Logistics and Infrastructure Director, John Digney, said today's announcement underscored Qube's commitments to regional NSW and to expanding the businesses rail services offering, as increasing volumes of freight shift from road to rail. The announcement follows an extended but necessary period of negotiation, following disruptions due to COVID19, significant supply chain impacts and inflationary pressures.

"We're very pleased to be backing the Tamworth Regional Council's investment in the local economy with the construction of the Tamworth Intermodal which will enable local producers to efficiently get their products to market, through Qube's unprecedented Paddock to Port export supply chain.

"Delivering the Tamworth intermodal is consistent with our plans to continue investing in intermodal and rail infrastructure - getting trucks off highways, contributing to emissions reductions and supporting regional communities with competitive and cost-effective freight and logistics services."

The construction of the Tamworth Intermodal Freight Facility and associated rail line works has been planned in line with the NSW Government's vision to increase levels of freight transported by rail, creating a more efficient freight network and reducing congestion on roads. Five kilometres of previously non-operational rail line between West Tamworth and Westdale has already been reactivated and is ready for use, which will connect the new Intermodal Freight Facility to the existing rail line and allow goods to be transported to ports at Newcastle and Sydney.

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson welcomed the latest announcement which would see the \$35.4 million intermodal rail line find a home.

"We are giving businesses the confidence to choose Tamworth by investing in major rail and road infrastructure projects," Mr Anderson said.

"Today's announcement welcomes big business into our region which means more jobs and more investment into our local economy."

The reactivation of the West Tamworth rail line has been funded by the NSW Government's Restart NSW Fund of a total \$35.4 million, with work carried out by John Holland Rail on behalf of Transport for NSW and the Department of Regional NSW. Construction of the Tamworth Intermodal Freight Facility is expected to cost approximately \$8 million, with this cost to be funded by Qube.

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