



MEDIA RELEASE

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Local government to discuss Inland Rail – opportunities and challenges for regional communities

The Australian Rail Track Corporation's (ARTC) much discussed Inland Rail and its impact on regional communities will prompt robust discussions later this month in Toowoomba.

Representatives from more than 100 councils located within the Basin will meet in October at the Murray Darling Association's 75th National Conference to discuss challenges and opportunities around intensifying agriculture sustainably.

One of the main topics of conversation will be the Inland Rail, which has been described as a once-in-a-generation project that will enhance supply chains and complete the backbone of the national freight network.

The Inland Rail will provide a transit time of 24 hours or less for freight trains between Melbourne and Brisbane via regional Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

ARTC Business Development Manager Jo Tait will be presenting at the conference in Toowoomba. Jo engages with communities to facilitate increased freight on rail on the Inland Rail network. Her focus is on growing new business in regional areas to increase market share across ARTC's interstate freight network.

"I'm delighted that Toowoomba is hosting the MDA 75th Annual Conference. The Conference will provide ARTC with access to local champions from MDA's 12 regions, representing many of the communities along Inland Rail's alignment," said Jo Tait.

"I look forward to understanding these regions more deeply through the presentations and discussions at the Annual Conference."

Other conference highlights include the Civic Reception on the Tuesday night at the spectacular newly refurbished Toowoomba Railway Goods Shed, and a fully guided regional tour on the Thursday through innovative farm enterprises and regional connectivity and engagement across one of the most connected regions in the nation.

Registrations for the event are open and places are filling up rapidly.

Those wanting to attend the conference can register online at www.mda.asn.au.

ENDS

For more information, contact Murray Darling Association on (03) 5480 3805 or comms@mda.asn.au