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## **Media Release**

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### **Freight rail upgrade will increase State domestic product**

Victoria should follow the latest NSW lead in significantly upgrading its freight rail system.

The NSW government with the Commonwealth have announced a \$1 billion investment to speed up the movement of freight trains through Sydney.

The upgrade will remove 200,000 trucks per annum from Sydney's roads and reduce carbon emissions by 100,000 tonnes per annum.

The quick movement of rail freight and reduced congestion on roads will increase NSW domestic product; it will lift rail freight corridor capacity by 50% by 2016.

Cr Jackie Fristacky, Chair of the Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF), said that "Victoria should follow this lead to reduce road congestion, reduce truck collision/health costs, improve road safety, and increase state domestic product".

The MTF represents 22 Melbourne metropolitan Councils covering 2.9 million residents.

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