

PRIME MINISTER

Joint statement by the Prime Minister, the Hon P J Keating, and the Minister for Land Transport, Hon Bob Brown, MP.

ONE NATION RAIL FUNDS FLOW TO NEW SOUTH WALES

The Federal Government today approved a \$28 million instalment of *One Nation* funding for 'early start' rail improvement projects in New South Wales.

The money will generate 700 jobs.

The funding targets rail projects on the Sydney-Melbourne and Sydney-Brisbane interstate lines to be used by National Rail (NR), formerly the National Rail Corporation.

The Prime Minister, Paul Keating, officially opened National Rail's Parramatta headquarters today and announced that \$181 million of *One Nation* money would be allocated immediately to upgrade the network of track over which NR interstate freight trains will operate.

Overall, the Federal Government has promised \$454 million from *One Nation* for upgrading major interstate railway lines throughout Australia.

Of the \$28 million initial payment approved for New South Wales today, bridgeworks, sleeper replacement and minor track repairs on the North Coast account for the \$9 million to be spent between Sydney and Brisbane

Nineteen million dollars will be spent on the Sydney-Melbourne link.

Included in this sum is \$2.2 million for the design of a \$71 million freight railway line between Campbelltown and Enfield, where National Rail will construct a new \$40 million state-of-the-art rail freight terminal in two years. NR will be able to consign freight from its own Sydney terminal without encountering delays caused by having to use the Cityrail passenger network.

'By reserving this route for NR operations and upgrading the Melbourne-Sydney railway line, fast "Superfreighter" trains will travel between Sydney and Melbourne in just 12 hours by 1994', Mr Keating and Mr Brown said.

'The Federal Government will provide \$15 million for Sydney-Melbourne track upgrading and rehabilitation in New South Wales. A \$50 000 allocation will pay for design work as a prelude to curve realignment on the 35 km between Moss Vale and Exeter.

'Almost \$2 million will be spent on design of four bridges to replace the Menangle Viaduct (near Campbelltown), the Joppa Junction bridge (near Goulburn), and viaducts at Wagga Wagga and Albury.

'Replacement of the bridges will reduce transit times considerably on the Southern corridor, thereby enabling rail to increase its market share on the route. A superior railway line is also expected to reduce costs', Mr Keating and Mr Brown said.

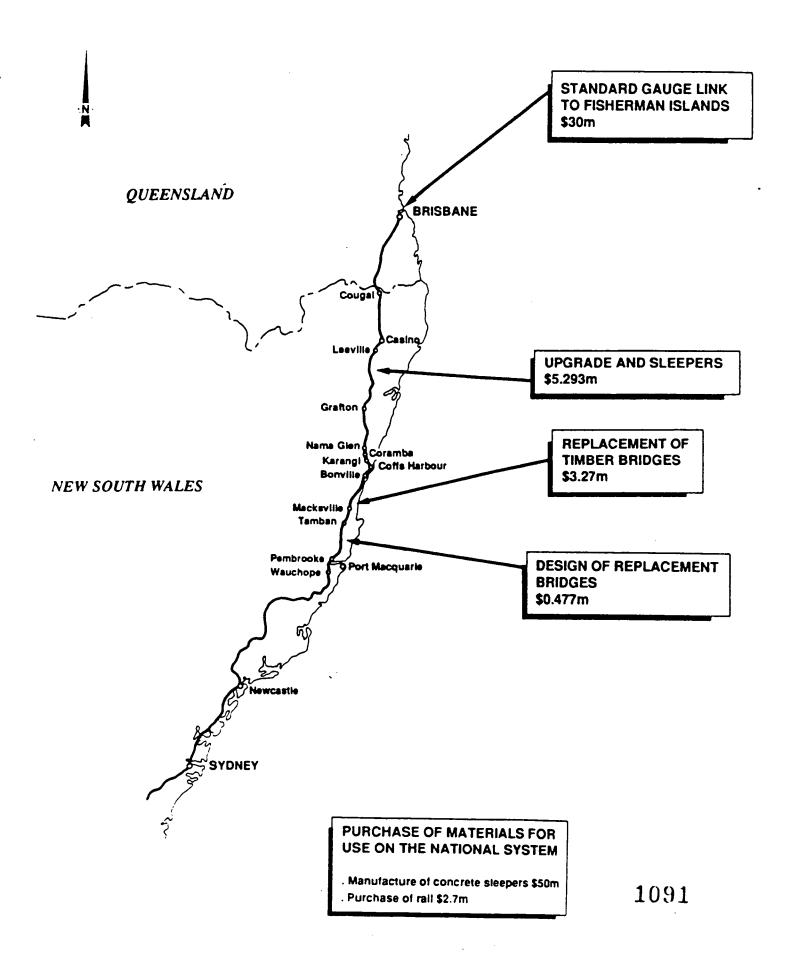
'On the Sydney-Brisbane link, the aim is to reduce interstate freight train travelling times by two hours to 16 hours, about the same journey duration as road transport. Rail's share of the freight task is expected to increase to 45 per cent in the long term'.

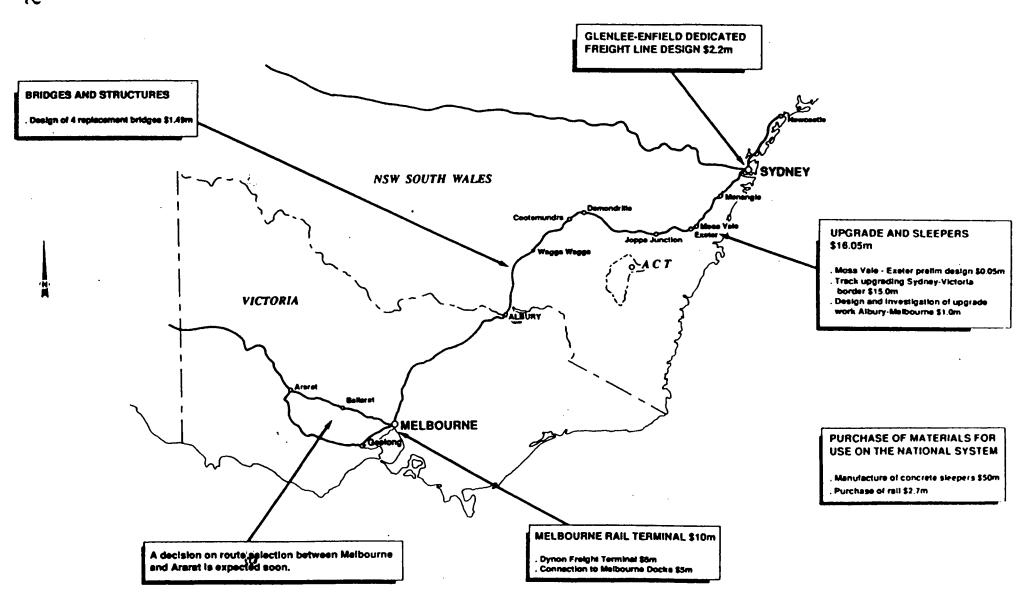
Bridge replacements are planned near Casino, Grafton and Macksville. New structures will be able to withstand the 25 tonne axle loadings of trains running at speed'.

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ONE NATION EARLY START PROJECTS SYDNEY TO BRISBANE





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