



EYRE PENINSULA LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

EPLGA relieved Viterra makes commitment to rail on Eyre Peninsula

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORT LINCOLN, South Australia – 12 AUGUST 2014

The Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association is very relieved and appreciative that Viterra is making a significant commitment to rail freight, providing a long term, efficient supply chain for the movement of grain not only in South Australia, but on Eyre Peninsula.

President of the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association, Mayor Julie Low said “ It is a huge relief to Councils to learn that rail transport of grain is to continue in light of the recent Australian Government cuts to road funding for Councils but also to give certainty for growers. “ Mayor Low went on to say “I don’t know what Councils would have done if the rail freight was mothballed or significantly reduced and replaced with increase use of the road networks, as the recent road funding cuts have certainly been a body blow, particularly to the smaller rural councils where it is totally relied upon to deliver good road infrastructure”. There is no doubt that such a shift in the supply chain would have been the straw that broke the camels back as far as the \$18m pot hole that has been created in South Australia Councils by the Australian Government. This cut will impact on every road user including business and certainly did not need a change in the Viterra supply chain away from rail.

However Viterra’s decision is a significant help and relief to the region’s Councils but more importantly it supports our local agricultural industry with an efficient storage and handling network that meets their needs and the needs of our export customers to ensure the regions and South Australian’s grain is competitive internationally.

“I believe there will still be the same level of use of local carriers in the region and that both road and rail freight will be used in the movement of grain from upcountry sites to the port terminals.” Mayor Low said.

The Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association looks forward to both Viterra and GWA finalising long-term rail solutions for the Eyre Peninsula lines in the near future and looks forward to the continuing dialogue on this matter of significant interest to the region.

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