

Labor announces its Transport and Logistics Innovation Partnership

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Labor yesterday announced three partnerships that could create tens of thousands of new high-tech, high paid jobs and add billions to export revenues.

One of those is the Transport and Logistics Innovation Partnership that will inject up to \$6 million into the transport and logistics sector.

Australasian Railway Association CEO Bryan Nye says the ARA is in strong support of the government's program and believes it will contribute a great amount of value towards the Australian economy, international competitiveness, and overall efficiency.

"Through targeted activities, it will create more jobs for Australians, upgrade skills of the existing workforce, and help firms grow their businesses domestically and internationally in the transport space," Nye says.

Nye sees the partnership bringing significant growth opportunities for rail.

"In Asia, more than \$200 billion is being invested in rail. Australia's expertise and capabilities in all areas of rail are highly regarded worldwide, with our heavy haul system considered the best in the world in terms of innovation."

Labor believes the transport and logistics sector is a significant contributor to the Australian GDP, and vital to national productivity and global competitiveness as an export nation.

In 2011, there were 240,000 transport and logistics companies providing critical services to three of the top four industries by GDP value: mining, construction, and manufacturing.

The Transport and Logistics Innovation Partnership will improve collaboration throughout the sector, boosting productivity, and creating new jobs.

There are almost 30 core industry partners involved including major names like Linfox, Patrick Container Ports, Sydney Ports Corporation, Bombardier Transportation, Downer Rail, and the Australasian Railway Association, who will be working alongside leading research organisations such as National ICT Australia (NICTA), University of Technology Sydney, Central Queensland University, and the University

of Western Sydney.

“Over the past decade, freight and passenger rail services have experienced strong growth,” Nye says, adding that growth is expected to continue due to road congestion, rising fuel prices, environmental concerns, and higher costs of living.

NICTA Future Logistics Living Lab Leader Neil Temperley believes the Transport and Logistics Innovation Partnership will bring together a strong mix of industry and research partners essential to make an impact in this diverse and fragmented sector.

“These activities address industry-driven technology issues with industry-wide impact, focusing on the effective development and application of information and communication technologies to drive productivity, cost efficiency, emissions reduction, and safety,” Temperley says.