



4. Infrastructure



Anna Wyllie, Business and Economic Development Manager at Parkes Shire Council will present on *"Parkes' National Logistics Hub"*.

Abstract

In terms of a national freight interchange, our Vision, as the name implies, is that Parkes will be a "National Logistics Hub". But we are not experts in Transport, logistics or manufacturing BUT we are experts in collaboration, advocacy and facilitation. Parkes presents a very exciting opportunity - we are the Cross roads of the Nation BUT we will need to work with Industry and take up industries advice to make the most of the very exciting opportunity that is in front of us! Getting a major development up sometimes takes a long time but we are here for the long-haul to help those that may share our vision. This presentation will showcase the unique position that the Parkes National Logistics Hub will play in the solution of the growing national freight task.



A/Prof. Ian Gray, Adjunct Associate Professor in Sociology at Charles Sturt University will present on *"Rail Freight for Regional Development"*.

Co-authors: A/Prof. Philip Laird, University of Wollongong and Nick Montague, Translink Brisbane.

Abstract

The potential of rail freight to grow regional economies by boosting local primary and secondary industry is now well documented in research and commentary, as is the desirability of increasing rail freight's modal share. However, its ongoing process of revival also shows the necessity for a simple and effective model of a way to make it happen. The paper discusses a range of issues with an eye on potential developments in regional New South Wales and proposes some principles for a simple and reliable process of branch line development.



Daniels Masters, Senior Manager, Investment Appraisal, Policy & Economics, Trade & Investment NSW will present on *"Comparative Analysis of the Benefits of Regional Development Projects: which generates the greatest return?"*

Co-author: Lesley Arthur, Rede Consult Pty Ltd

Abstract

The following paper provides a comparative economic analysis of regional development projects. The projects

subjected to the comparative analysis have been chosen for their ability to reflect a 'typical' regional industry investment project or tourism based initiative. The projects are separately assessed using economic impact analysis and social welfare cost benefit analysis, with the results compared. Using both methodologies, it is shown that tourism related projects offer comparable, if not greater, economic benefits to regional economies than traditional industry based projects. However, it is also shown that the economic benefits associated with tourism projects are sensitive to the referent group selected for the analysis as well as the likelihood of specific purpose visitation to the region as a result of the initiative.