



Improved services are attracting people back to public transport.

Ensuring that all transport services are customer-focused and conform to the world's best practice

Melbourne's main interstate railway links – to Adelaide (via Geelong) and Sydney – are now operated as part of a national standard-gauge network, with Melbourne as the operational hub. Conversion of the Adelaide sector to standard gauge was completed in 1995. For the first time, goods can move between all five mainland State capitals without transshipment or bogie exchange.

Under the National Rail Shareholders' Agreement, the Commonwealth, Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia have established the National Rail Corporation to conduct interstate rail freight operations on a commercial basis.

In line with National Competition Policy, the Government is giving private rail and intermodal freight service providers access to rail infrastructure. These private operators will compete with the National Rail Corporation and V/Line Freight.

Within its own sphere of operation, the Government will obtain better value for money, improve customer service and enlarge consumer choice by extending the franchise-based contract system across the bus network. The Public Transport Corporation – including V/Line – will continue to be restructured to make it more responsive to the market. The Government will also:

- consider establishing a separate rail infrastructure provider
- give competitive (public and private) rail and intermodal freight services open access to intrastate and interstate rail infrastructure.