Official Launch
Parliament House, Canberra
27th August, 2008

Closing Remarks by David George, CEO of the CRC for Rail Innovation

Senator the Honourable Kim Carr, CRC Chairman, Directors and Distinguished Guests,

Before we adjourn, I'd like to thank everyone for coming to the official launch of the CRC for Rail Innovation today.

I would particularly like to thank Senator the Hon Kim Carr for his continuous support and commitment to CRCs and innovation.

Today, we have heard about the first year of the Rail CRC and how this is an exciting time for rail in Australia.

I would like to leave you today with an outline of how the research program of the CRC for Rail Innovation will help solve the major challenges and opportunities that Australia's rail industry is facing.

Firstly, our research will provide an understanding that will help reduce transport emissions and address climate change issues.

Rail has one third the emissions of road transport. Leveraging rail's green credentials through these climate change projects will both help the rail industry and allow Australia to reduce transport emissions in the rail industry as a whole. The rail industry has a dual role to play in reducing transport emissions by improving our own environmental performance and by carrying a greater share of the transport task.

At present, the CRC in conjunction with the ARA and Participants is investing over $500k in climate change related research projects.

Secondly, we will help further **improve rail safety**, especially in the areas of level crossing and human factors research. The CRC's Operations and Safety Research Program is focusing on maximising the operational efficiency of rail while enhancing and promoting safety. One of our key strategies is to develop a toolkit for safety culture management within the rail environment.

We also have a project that will produce a toolkit of human factors methods to evaluate new in-cab and train control technologies. This research has the potential to reduce the risk associated with introducing new technologies.

Thirdly, we are carrying out research that will **unleash rail's capacity** and improve network performance. The rail industry expects to double the rail task for bulk freight, inter-modal freight and urban passenger traffic by 2020. To achieve this goal, the

capacity of rolling stock and rail infrastructure must be increased by improved materials, designs and smarter systems. CRC research will underpin the drive to smarter tracks and smarter trains.

Fourthly, we will conduct research into improving urban mobility. Fuel price rises and urban congestion have led to major increases in urban passenger rail demand. In a response to meet these challenges, four participants of the CRC - RailCorp, Queensland Rail, TransAdelaide and the Public Transport Authority of Western Australia - are committed to work with the CRC to help research areas such as demand management, vandalism, graffiti and overcrowding.

Finally, the CRC for Rail Innovation will help in **developing the industry's human capital.** We are working with our Participants including the Australasian Railway Association to develop exciting industry initiatives to address this challenge and ensure we have the capabilities the industry will need in the future.

In summary the Rail CRC research program will build on existing knowledge and develop new technologies that will

- Reduce transport emission
- Improve rail operations and safety
- Unleash rail capacity
- Improve urban mobility and
- Develop capabilities for the Future Railways

It is a truly exciting time for the rail industry. Collaboration research is the key to this transformational change. Again thank you for attending. This concludes the formal proceedings.