



The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Leader of The Nationals
Federal Member for New England

Ref: MC21-003799

21 JUL 2021

The Hon Ben Morton MP
Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Assistant Minister for Electoral Matters
Assistant Minister to the Minister for the Public Service
Member for Tangney
PO Box 329
WILLETTON WA 6955

Dear Assistant Minister 

Thank you for your letter of 1 July 2021 on behalf of s 47F, regarding the Iron Boomerang project.

I understand the Iron Boomerang project proposes the construction of a 3300km rail line to link the iron ore fields in Western Australia's Pilbara region with the Bowen Basin coal mines in north Queensland. This would facilitate the production of steel within Australia by transporting iron ore and coal back and forth across the country, rather than exporting these commodities for production overseas.

The Australian Government is committed to the ongoing delivery of a \$110 billion Infrastructure Investment Program that is focused on driving economic growth, increasing productivity and connectivity, and creating new employment opportunities.

While the Government does not have a commitment to the Iron Boomerang project at this time, there is significant investment in delivering important projects across northern Australia, through programs such as the Government's commitment of \$330 million towards the Outback Way and \$700 million towards the Northern Australia roads programs. These projects are improving connectivity and reducing travel times, as well as cutting costs for freight operators and enhancing economic opportunities for the cattle, mining and tourism industries.

The Government has also committed more than \$4.9 billion under the Roads of Strategic Importance initiative to ensure our key freight roads efficiently connect agricultural and mining regions to ports, airports and other transport hubs, including a number of projects in northern Australia.

Funding for future projects may be considered in the context of future budgets in consultation with the state and territory governments. In this context, I encourage s 47F to engage with the relevant state and territory governments regarding the development of any future proposal for land transport infrastructure projects.

Thank you for bringing s 47F concerns to my attention and I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Barnaby Joyce', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Barnaby Joyce MP