



Proposal for an efficient central freight rail link in regional WA:

The above map broadly illustrates the existing route (in blue) of the main freight line which runs from the grain loading facility on the coast at Kwinana, north-east to Toodyay, then southwards to the central inland town of Brookton, a distance of approximately 245km. The proposed new direct link (in orange) from Kwinana east to Brookton is approx 130km.

One third of this new route is actually already in place. There is a working freight railway which presently connects east from Kwinana to Mundijong, and from Mundijong there is a disused mining line running further east into the Darling Range beyond Jarrahdale. This line could be extended through to Brookton with the construction of approximately 90km of new railway infrastructure.

The benefits and cost savings of the shorter (orange) route are immediately obvious. It would also be well positioned to serve the forthcoming development of the Fremantle outer harbour. The inherent improvement in rail transport efficiency would attract more freight onto this mode, and it would open the way for further railway extensions inland from Brookton to Corrigin and Hyden in the future.

Author: