EDE WELCOMES AUSTRALIA ASIA TRADE LINK REPORT

Labor Leader Brian Ede has called for a special working group to be formed by the Northern Territory, South Australian and Federal Governments to examine the viability of the Morrison Knudsen report on the Australia-Asia Trade link.

"The report is an important step in the right direction and I have arranged for a copy to be sent immediately to the Prime Minister, Mr Keating," Mr Ede said.

"It is important to understand that this is a step in the right direction, but only a step."

"I am also in favor of a change in the tax mix for investment in infrastructure in the tradable goods sector. Such a move would enhance private investment in the Australia Asia Trade Link."

"A special working group would provide independent assessment of the report which would boost the confidence of private investors in the trade link."

"I stress there should be no open-ended commitment to a non-viable project. However the Morrison Knudsen report is the first to indicate that the Australia Asia Trade Link is commercially viable without special treatment."

"We need to co-operate now to secure private investment in this vital project."

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