

11 January 2021

Dear Stephen,

**Re: VITL Western Link Initiative**

I write to offer support for the VITL Western Link initiative that aims to connect Western Sydney to the Central West Region of New South Wales.

Both Western Sydney and the Central West are growing at exponential rates with major infrastructure projects underway and population increases throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic.

A new and improved road and rail connection will assist with the growth of the Central West through direct connection to the Western Sydney Airport at Badgerys Creek and the Greater Sydney Rail Network, allowing easier transportation of goods and people to and from our region.

Over the past decade Orange and the Central West have seen considerable growth as numerous industries have cemented their place in the local economy. Initially agriculture and mining, followed by health and education, Orange is the western hub for many of these industries, and its growth is further aided by decentralisation and the relocation of government departments to the region. As an economic hub for the western region, better connectivity to Sydney and the global economy is an absolute necessity for the future economic success of NSW.

The proposed Western Link will have many positive benefits for the community of Orange and the Central West including but not limited to:

- Increasing the economic capacity of the western regions
- Lowering existing freight costs
- Increasing levels of tourism
- Better connectivity between Sydney and the Inland Rail Freight Line
- Safer and quicker travel between the Central West and Sydney
- Cheaper and quicker access to the global market

To create a new connection through the Blue Mountains from Western Sydney to Lithgow will allow NSW to realise the potential of improving its connectivity between cities and regional centres. This should be viewed as a Nation Building Project and will be backed by the Orange Business Chamber in full.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Evans  
**President**  
Orange Business Chamber

