

CSIRO maps Australia's future agriculture infrastructure

THE CSIRO's TRANsport Network Strategic Investment Tool (TRANSIT) is being expanded to help drive better transport infrastructure investment decisions across Australia's agriculture sector.

The move has come out of the Federal Government's Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper, according to Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Barnaby Joyce.

Mr Joyce said TRANSIT was "an invaluable tool in supporting evidence-based infrastructure investment decisions".

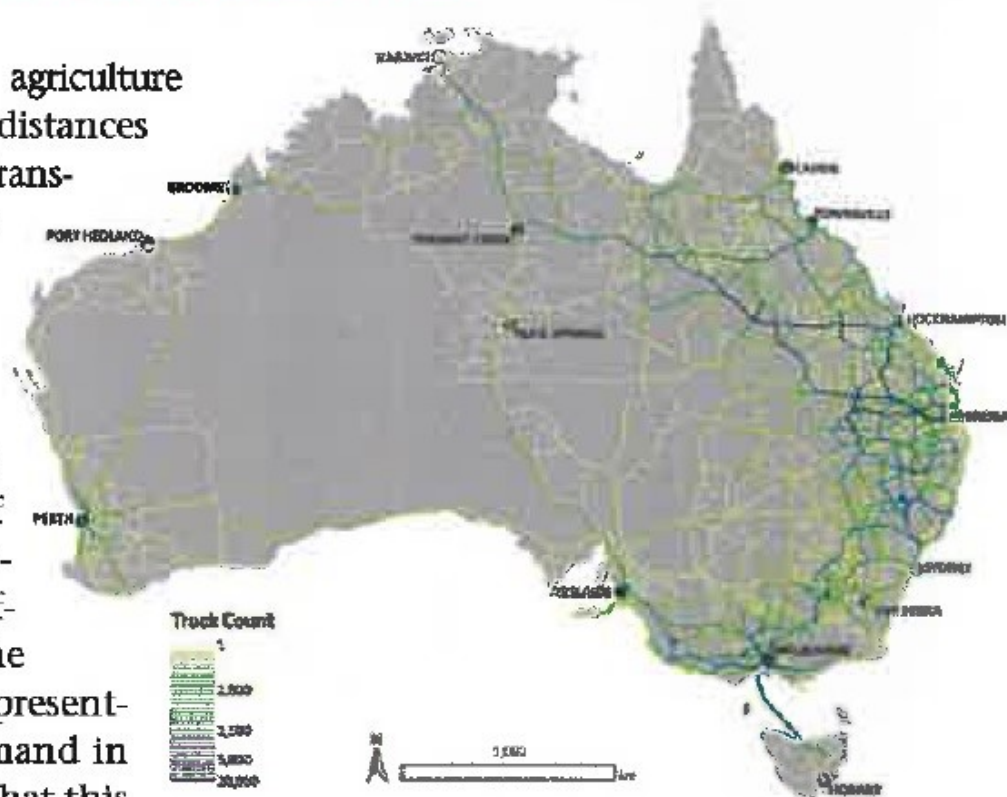
"TRANSIT currently has applications for all northern livestock logistics," Mr Joyce said. "This \$1 million expansion will see the tool's applications extended to cover about 25 agricultural commodities, representing more than 95 percent of Australia's agricultural transport volume.

"Work is ahead of schedule to analyse the supply chains for grains – including wheat, barley, oats, lentils, chickpeas and canola – dairy, rice, cotton, pigs and sugar.

"Across our vast land, agriculture supply chains often span distances of more than 1000km and transport costs can account for up to 40 percent of the market price, squeezing profits at the farm gate.

"Investment in supply chain infrastructure is crucial to the ability of our agriculture sector to remain competitive and profitable, and to capture the significant opportunities presented by increasing food demand in Asia – but it is important that this investment is evidence based and delivers the greatest possible benefit to industry.

"TRANSIT is capable of analysing large and small scale investments in the agriculture supply chain, and is an invaluable tool in ensuring that investments in infrastructure will deliver maximum productivity and profitability benefits," Mr Joyce said.



TRANSIT has been used to map movements of cattle trucks Australia-wide.

The tool works by analysing possible combinations of transport routes and methods, and determining those that optimise vehicle movements between enterprises in the agriculture supply chain, to inform investment decisions.

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