

24 September 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

MEDIA RELEASE

INTERLINKSQ WELCOMES ARRIVAL OF WATCO IN SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND

The use of rail as a highly competitive conveyor of freight in South West Queensland has received a huge boost with the arrival of Watco Transportation Services, according to InterLinkSQ's General Manager, Blair Batts.

Watco, which has its head office in Kansas and already operating here in Australia, has announced it will establish its maintenance facilities in Warwick off the back of winning a major bulk contract in Queensland, including the Darling Downs region.

Watco have a long history in the railway industry both overseas and in Australia, including operating both bulk and inter-modal services within Western Australia.

"InterLinkSQ welcomes their move to South West Queensland," Mr Batts said.

"They have a proven ability to win major contracts and InterLinkSQ maintains that competition is key to the development of rail freight. We have that now with the arrival of Watco.

"At InterLinkSQ, we appreciate the ability of new and improved rail freight operations to create job in our region.

"Our inter-modal operations planned for InterLinkSQ are progressing rapidly and have the capacity to create hundreds of extra jobs in South East Queensland.

"It is our regions exporters and farmers who stand to gain from a competitive environment within the freight and logistics transport sector. This requires a competitive rail service offering which InterLinkSQ is striving to facilitate.

"Rail needs to increase its mode share with the freight task set to double by 2040. It is not a case of trains replacing trucks on our roads, but rail assuming its "fair share" of the increase in the freight task, which alleviates pressure on the road transport industry and associated public infrastructure.

"InterLinkSQ congratulates Watco Transportation Services on their arrival in our region and wishes them success."

INTERLINKSQ - BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- InterLinkSQ is an intermodal transport and logistics centre and inland port, strategically located in the Toowoomba Enterprise Hub, 13km west of Toowoomba in Southern Queensland, to maximise transportation and supply chain cost efficiencies.
- InterLinkSQ is ideally situated as a major centre for freight moving between metropolitan centres including Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney, Perth and Darwin as well as via the Port of Brisbane and Toowoomba's Domestic & International Airport.
- InterLinkSQ offers modal choice through access to key road, rail, sea and air links, with:
 - 3 km of frontage to the existing West Moreton rail line connecting to the Port of Brisbane as well as direct connection to the Inland Rail alignment.
 - A strategic location at the junction of three major highways – the Gore, Warrego and New England – with connectivity to the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing.
 - A domestic and international airport 8 km away.
- InterLinkSQ spans 200 hectares integrating:
 - The InterLink Industrial Park: a master-planned logistics, warehousing and industrial estate that is a centre for progressive companies focusing on the future of supply chain management, with connectivity to the InterLink Global Logistics Centre.
 - The InterLink Global Logistics Centre: an open access rail terminal linking to road, sea and air transport, incorporating grain and commodities storage, processing and loading facilities, rail maintenance and provisioning and a large container handling and storage area.
- InterLinkSQ's strategic location, facilities and transport links provides for transport efficiencies, access to domestic and international markets and an opportunity for businesses to consolidate their operations.

<ENDS>

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

Ali Lawson
alil@interlinksq.com.au
0418 603 695