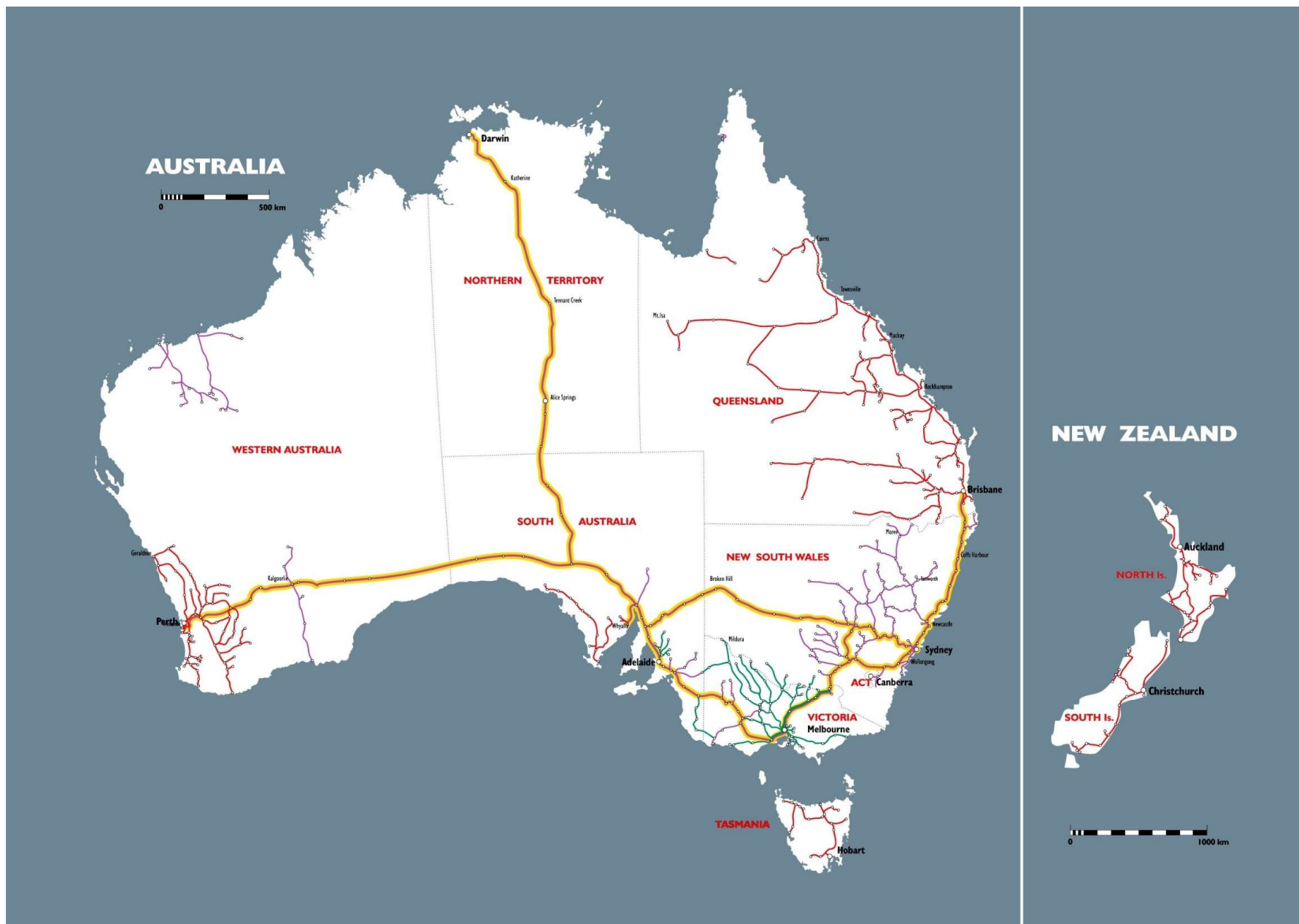


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Climate change disclosures are inconsistent, incomparable and of poor quality.

Is more regulation the answer for the Australian government?

Kerry Hicks

Senior Policy Adviser,
Australian Institute of Company Directors
May 2017

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A snapshot of the current Australian Rail Task



- Employs 110,000 people
- In excess 1 billion tonnes of freight – 2012/13
- Coal task increased by 45% in 3 years
- Iron ore task has tripled in the last decade
- Rail carries 50% of the freight within Australia
- Unprecedented increase in urban & non-urban passenger journeys in last decade

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- Progressively, since the early 1990's, the business of 'Public Transport' has moved from vertically integrated State Government run enterprises to a largely privatised business.
- Equally, stress through significant growth in the passenger business has impacted on investment decisions



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Decision making about network renewals until 2009, focussed on upgrading life expired infrastructure.

Innovation has included

- Concrete Sleepers
- Ballast Depth
- Heavier Rails
- Level Crossing Elimination
- New signalling systems

But these decisions were primarily motivated by increasing network capacity or expanding the network rather than addressing resilience for extreme weather situations.

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- So what changed in 2009?
- A series of 'extreme weather events' along the East Coast of Australia.
 - Unseasonal Torrential Rain
 - Electrical Storms
 - Heat Waves
- Significant disruption to public transport delivery resulted in unprecedented community backlash.
- Passenger well being during extreme weather now a factor.



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Current Situation

- More accurate 'extreme' weather forecasting
- Greater customer focus with planning network shutdowns.
- Franchisee commitments to annual renewal targets.
- Capital Investment still a Government prerogative with an annual budget allocation.

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New transport infrastructure projects

Both urban and non-urban are primarily government funded.

Federal and State Governments have different priorities which can affect the allocation of funds

- Designs now consider climatic resilience
- Construction is outsourced and projects delivered 'turn-key' to the franchisee
- Many 'improvements' built to a 'budget'
- Some have not been resilient



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Whilst reliance on public transport has increased, customers still have to work around disruptions!

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QUESTIONS

