

Pros and Cons

The transportation issue can be broken down into Pros and Cons and a Best and Worst case... this is specifically if it is goes through Port Alberni other ports have been considered but are not currently being studied by the Proponent.

Worst Case: Everything By Truck.

PROS:

- Possibly significant indirect trucking jobs

CONS:

- 75 loaded B-Trains to Port Alberni, 150 passes both ways 24/7/365 for 15 years.
- possible coal dust along Hwy 4 and through residential and commercial areas of Port Alberni.
- truck noise pollution in Waterfront area of Port Alberni 24/7/365
- increased road wear and tear
- increased risk for all road users
- increased congestion on Hwy 4 in winter, and potential for standstill in summer (think 2 coal trucks plus 2 other trucks pulling up the hump with 2 campers between them and everyone trying to pass... the highway is only so long)

Best Case: It goes by rail

PROS:

- Some indirect rail yard jobs.
- 230,000 - 390,000 Litres less Diesel annually than trucks to Port Alberni.
- 169,000 - 286,000 kg less CO2 emitted annually than trucks to Port Alberni.
- Increased exposure of Port Alberni to import/export markets, connection to all NA RRs at Annacis Island.
- Revitalized Island rail infrastructure and economic sustainability for rail operations.
- Short active unloading time (around 2 hours) once per day.
- Increased rail tourism opportunities (huge load off volunteers maintaining Alberni rail line)
- New Commercial rail opportunities (WFP/Catalyst/Fuel/Others) for commodities currently transiting across Vancouver Island by truck

CONS:

- Increased use of pesticides on railway
- Possible coal dust along railline.