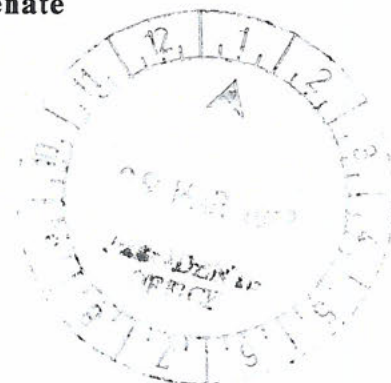




SENATOR THE HON MATHIAS CORMANN
Minister for Finance
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate

Senator the Hon Stephen Parry
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Mr President

I refer to the Senate order agreed on 28 March 2017 seeking the tabling of documents including a business case and cost benefit analysis for the Perth Freight Link.

The Senate previously passed Orders for the Production of Documents relating to the Perth Freight Link business case and the cost benefit analysis (which is part of the business case) on the following occasions: 25 June 2014; 11 August 2015; 19 April 2016; 1 September 2016; 12 September 2016; and 2 February 2017.

The Government has provided numerous documents to the Senate (listed in my letter to you of 7 February 2017) in response to these requests. In fact, the Government has released all the information it can release without causing harm to the public interest.

Responses to these previous requests noted that the documents sought in the Senate's orders, including this one, contain information that is commercial and sensitive in nature and their release in a full un-redacted form would both breach cabinet confidentiality and potentially damage relations between the Commonwealth and a state.

I note that regardless of the party that forms Government in a jurisdiction, the grounds of cabinet confidentiality, commercial-in-confidence and prejudice to Commonwealth-State relations continue to operate, and therefore the Commonwealth's position remains that it cannot provide more information than it has on previous occasions.

I have copied this letter to the Prime Minister, the Treasurer, the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, and the Minister for Urban Infrastructure.

Kind regards

Mathias Cormann
Minister for Finance

27 March 2017