

**From:** picarmichael  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 August 2015 3:20 PM  
**To:** (SEN)  
**Subject:** Inquiry into the decision to commit funding to the Perth Freight Link project

The proposed trucking route is to cross over the Beeliam chain made up of two chains of lakes and wetlands that run parallel to the west coast of [Western Australia](#) situated on the coastal plain between the Darling Escarpment and the Indian Ocean.

#### **Historical**

The Beeliam wetlands area is of special significance to both the flora and fauna species found within this area; and of importance to the "Whadjuk" group of Noongars (or Nyungars). "Beeliam Whadjuk" literally meaning "river people" who once lived and hunted fish and water fowl and held tribal ceremonies.

#### **Current**

The wetlands have been identified as supporting native flora and fauna vital to maintaining the biodiversity of the region.

Birds such as the Red Knot travel from the Northern hemisphere to their breeding grounds within the Wetlands area. Colonies of white and straw necked Ibis flourish here with nesting occurring in the lower paperback shrubs during springtime.

#### **Pitfalls of the PFL proposal under the Terms of Reference**

- (a) *the decision-making process that led to the announcement that the Perth Freight Link would receive Commonwealth funding,*
- (b) *the information relied upon by state and Commonwealth governments informing the decision to fund this project,*
- (c) *the importance of transparency of decision-making in relation to infrastructure decisions, evaluation of options for managing growth in the Perth freight task, and*
- (d) *any related matters.*

**Point (c)** The importance of transparency of decision-making in relation to infrastructure decisions, evaluation of options for managing growth in the Perth freight task:

- (a) Lack of Government accountability and transparency - information being withheld from the public until a Senate enquiry was announced.
- (b) The project reflects inefficient use of taxpayers' monies - publicly known that the project is already under-budgeted by an estimated \$165 million dollars.

**Point (d)** Any Related matters

### 1. Social and Urban Impacts

It is estimated there will be a 500% increase in trucks to the Fremantle Port located at Rouse Head within 25 years. (Source: Perth Freight Link: A good idea, Wrong Port Prof. Newman, Dr Cole Hendrigan) Cottesloe and all suburbs surrounding the proposed Perth Freight Link will therefore see a dramatic expansion in the number of trucks carrying containers in and out of these areas. This project will impact on these communities in many ways:

#### (a) Family Health, Safety and Environment

Increased traffic movement results in pollution in two ways - traffic noise and diesel fumes leading to potential health issues. *"The pollution that we care about from diesel - buses, trucks and other diesel engines – is technically called particulate matter. We all know it is soot. It's fine, fine particles that are small enough to get past our throat, past our lungs into the deepest part, the deepest of our lungs, where they trigger asthma attacks, bronchitis, emphysema, heart disease and now of course we've learned cancer."* (Metherell, 2012) Source: Perth Freight Link: A good idea, Wrong Port Prof. Newman, Dr Cole Hendrigan

#### (b) Public safety

With poor transport planning additional heavy haulage trucks will reduce family safety as currently noted at Byford Western Australia where road re-design has become high priority within this community.

#### (c) Sense of Place

Communities most importantly connect to a "Sense of Place." Residents relate strongly to the amenity of the area in which they choose to live. Places said to have a strong "sense of place" have a strong identity and character that is deeply felt by local inhabitants and by many visitors. Having a sense of place encourages involvement within the community and helps people create neighbourly bonds. It encourages people to be involved, to enjoy where they live or work, and to interact more with their surroundings. Having a sense of place fosters a safe environment for all. When a sense of place is achieved, and people want to live and work in a certain community or area, there can be energy savings that result.

#### (d) Bottlenecks

With the increase in heavy haulage freight truck movement along Curtin Avenue (northbound and southbound) traffic bottlenecks will occur at both the poorly planned exits on Jarrad Street & Eric Street, Cottesloe.

- 2. **Lack of Planning Vision** – The need to accommodate future port expansion development promoted by Dr. Cole Hendrigan and Prof. Pater Newman in their paper citing the reasons why this project should not go ahead partly covered in some of the above points.