

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Submission: Migration (Validation of Port Appointment) Bill 2018

I understand that the proposed bill aims to validate the proclamation of a port in the territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands in 2002.

I also understand the validity of the “port” is subject to court challenges.

To me this bill smacks of interference in the justice system i.e. the government is acting to thwart a valid challenge by our Federal courts. I think it is wrong to change a law in order to win a case that is already before the court.

Furthermore I think the original proclamation is bizarre. What port? This is the sort of manipulation of reality that results in a lack of respect for our Parliament.

The passing of the proposed bill will be further proof of the current government’s push to declare asylum seekers “illegal” at any price. If this is an attempt to avoid paying compensation by re-classifying claims, I find that immoral. Such judgments should be made on the basis of ethical considerations not financial.

There have been retrospective changes to The Migration Act in the past, and as a law-abiding Australian citizen, any retrospective re-drawing of the rules is disturbing.

Therefore I ask that the Committee recommend that this Bill be rejected.

30 August 2018