Decision to commit funding to the Perth Freight Link project Submission 8

To: The Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

2nd September 2015

Dear Secretary,

It is very distressing that considering the traffic congestion in Perth and the short sighted approach of the state government, who I voted for, in sending traffic back towards the Fremantle Port when a secondary facility had been planned in Cockburn Sound.

I congratulate the federal government in trying to help the chaotic transport plans here in Perth as the loss of revenue from being able to get round must be enormous.

There are so many reasons why The Perth Freight Link should not be built to Fremantle which is so heavily populated and the need for amended infrastructure has not been taken into consideration by our State Government.

Taking the Roe highway, which has just been widened south to Anketell Road would be cheaper, more cost effective in the long term and could then allow for containers to be moved quickly to their destination.

If the road goes to Fremantle Port, which must almost be at full capacity then either a tunnel or new bridge across the Swan River is required, heavy dredging needed to accommodate the largest ships now being built. I also see trucks clogging up the roads south along Stirling Highway to avoid paying tolls thereby increasing the traffic problems that this road is supposedly trying to solve.

A new port at Cockburn Sound can be great in an effort to regenerate the area, offer more jobs and therefore create more wealth for the state and federal governments.

Bibra Lake Regional Park is a beautiful location that is used by many local residents and conservationists and is a joy to the life style of Perth and of course the area that I live. Destroying the area's historical areas and forcing rare animals and birds who will need to be relocated will all cost money.

On paper one can always create reasons why anything should be built but if Perth is to grow in the way other cities have over the past 200 years then a more cohesive plan needs to be created. Having 2 ports allows for more investment, more jobs and twice the income and with Western Australia being the entry and exit point for trade with China it does not make sense to build this road.

Somebody needs to calculate the cost of a new tunnel or bridge, the cost and disruption of dredging the existing port and also relocating residents who will be forced to move. I and a number of local residents have always voted Liberal in the past but we all agree that a compromise other than voting for the opposition needs to be found.

Thank You for allowing me to present this letter as I have lived in Australia for over 10 years now and love doing so.

Yours sincerely

Paul R Iddiols