

To: Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

10/07/2017

Your Ref: Petition No. 015

Thank you for your invitation to provide this written submission regarding the issues raised by me in the petition before you, namely Divestment of Port of Fremantle

I am Rhonda Lee Vredenburg (nee Jenkins). My grandparents, Percival & Olive Jenkins lived in Suffolk St, South Fremantle prior to the second world war until the mid-nineteen sixties. They had five children, and I'm one of their grandchildren, also born in Fremantle. All of my family, lives or lived in the Fremantle area and their descendants have maintained strong ties and association with both the City and the Port of Fremantle.

My Grandfather had a men's wear store in High Street Fremantle which my uncle, Ron Jenkins, subsequently owned & managed for many years after the retirement of my grandfather.

My father Norman William Jenkins and many of his brothers in law, left the wharf in Fremantle Harbour as naval servicemen to fight in the Second World War, to defend our shores and ensure that they and their descendants, maintained the rights and freedoms in which they truly believed.

I am appalled that the government of the State of Western Australia should consider leasing out the Port facilities to, what will be for all intents and purposes, the highest bidder, without regard for the sacrifices made by the previous generation. They fought and in many cases, gave their lives to ensure that no-one took from the people of this state and nation, that which was rightfully theirs, whether they be rights, freedoms or property.

I see a move such as this, not only as a slap in the face to those who defended our shores, but one that would leave us without, not only government control of our port facilities, but a loss by the state, of the expertise to run such a facility in the future, when any such lease would eventually expire.

In addition to the effective loss of a public facility, one has only to look to the experience of other nations and indeed states of Australia that have gone down this path. The result has been a real threat to our state and national security where, for example, access to defence facilities for our own and allied forces have been compromised through lack of co-ordination by short sighted governments

I am passionate about this issue, I gathered signatures on the Petition before you, opposing the State Governments proposal to lease out the Port of Fremantle, and seek the Committee and the Legislative Council's support and assistance to ensure that public facilities remain completely in public hands, now and into the future.

I have not taken this matter to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations.

Thank You.

Rhonda Lee Vredenburg