



MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT; TRANSPORT; INNOVATION

Our ref: 42-83309

Your ref: Petition No. 124

Hon Simon O'Brien MLC

Chairman

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

Parliament House

PERTH WA 6000

env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr O'Brien

Simon

PETITION 124 - CLOSURE OF MAIN STREET JETTY

Thank you for your letter dated 13 October 2016 regarding Petition 124 – Closure of the Main Street Jetty to the Port Hedland community.

This Liberal-National Government is committed to ensuring public access to recreational areas in Western Australia. I also appreciate there is strong public interest in the Port Hedland Port's operations.

The port is the world's largest bulk export port as seen during the 2015-16 financial year, when a record annual throughput of 460.4 million tonnes was achieved. The jetty was originally provided by the port authority for public recreational use. This was due to the port's wharves no longer being available for recreational use (fishing) following the enactment of Federal legislation that put in place dedicated security measures at Australian ports.

In 2011, the Government recognised commercial use of the jetty was placing pressure on public access and safety. To separate recreational and commercial users, the Government approved \$6 million of Royalties for Regions funding for the Pilbara Ports Authority (PPA) to construct a new commercial jetty adjacent to the existing jetty.

The new commercial jetty opened in October 2015 and commercial vessel berthing and operations have transitioned from the original jetty. This allows the jetty to remain accessible to the public. The construction of the commercial jetty was delivered at a cost of \$3.9 million, with the savings returned to the Government.

PPA recently spent \$210,000 to repair and repaint corroded elements of the jetty, and install supplementary bracing to strengthen the structure. The lower deck was removed due to safety concerns, as it was regularly inundated by water during the daily tidal cycle which posed a danger to users.

The jetty's remaining top deck is wheelchair accessible and PPA has commissioned an independent disability access audit. The commercial jetty is not intended or appropriate for public use as the intermixing of unsupervised public access and commercial operations represents an unacceptable safety risk.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Marmion". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**HON BILL MARMION MLA
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT**

16 NOV 2016