



Minister for Transport; Planning

Our ref: 72-22090

Your ref: Petition No. 126

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC

Chair

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

env@parliament.wa.go.au

Dear Mr Swinbourn

PETITION NO 126 – KWINANA OUTER HARBOUR

Thank you for your correspondence dated 17 October 2019 regarding the terms and submission of Petition No 126 – Kwinana Outer Harbour.

The Westport Taskforce (Westport) is developing a plan to manage Western Australia's growing freight demands for the next 50 years and beyond. In identifying the most appropriate port option to meet the State's long-term freight requirements, Westport must balance economic, social and environmental criteria. An initial assessment process identified several port options in the Kwinana area for further, more detailed investigation. This work is presently underway.

Options to extend the life of Fremantle Inner Harbour or alternatively to utilise Bunbury as a container hub for the future have been considered, but have been ruled out for various reasons. Westport is currently assessing five short-listed options, all involve establishing new container port facilities at Kwinana to take on some, or all, of the State's container trade.

Westport recognises potential environmental and social impacts associated with container port facilities at Cockburn Sound, which includes the species mentioned in the petition, such as Bottlenose Dolphins, Snapper and Little Penguins.

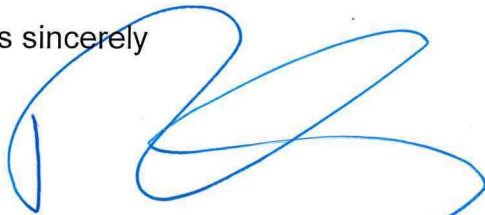
Westport, with ongoing input from government agencies that are involved with environmental management matters, has engaged scientific institutions to provide independent advice on risks relating to, and potential impact on, environmental and social values. This advice has informed the options assessment process.

The petition 126 raises potential alternative locations for new container ports, such as Oakajee, Geraldton, Broome and Esperance. While these locations are not within the scope of Westport, it is also expected that these locations will not have a role within the broader context of addressing the State's container freight needs and the time frames contemplated by the Westport Taskforce.

As a State, we must balance the economy, the environment and the community concerns to find the appropriate solutions to our challenges. More information is available on the Department of Transport's website:
www.transport.wa.gov.au/projects/westport.asp.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above the printed name.

**HON RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT**

15 NOV 2019