



Minister for Transport; Disability Services
Hon. Simon O'Brien MLC

Our ref: 29-11599

18 FEB 2010

Mr David Salisbury
Director, Regulatory Affairs Division
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
Level 35, The Tower Melbourne Central
360 Elizabeth Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Salisbury

Fremantle Port's Vehicle Booking Systems

I understand that you are about to receive an application from the two container terminal operators in Fremantle Port for authority to introduce amendments to their respective Vehicle Booking Systems with a view to enhanced truck productivity at the port.

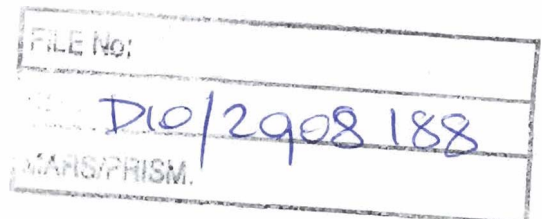
I further understand that officers at the Department of Transport have briefed you over a period of time as to this initiative. That being the case, I will not dwell on the detail of it here.

What I would like to do, however, is to reflect briefly on the significance of this initiative from the State Government's viewpoint.

There is a substantial fixed investment in Fremantle Port's Inner Harbour and the surrounding freight system on the part of both industry and Government. I believe that the life of this vital infrastructure should be maximised as a result. A key factor threatening such an outcome is the impact on the surrounding community of associated port truck activity.

Nearly 30 per cent of trucks servicing the Inner Harbour travel one-way empty. Measures to address this inefficiency, with an associated containment of port truck numbers, should be supported. I understand that the initiative proposed by the Fremantle port's container terminal operators is such a measure and has the specific intention of encouraging two-way truck loadings.

I also believe that the initiative is most worthwhile and has the potential to significantly contribute to an outcome for Fremantle Port consistent with the best interests of the surrounding community and with associated Government policy.



I would like to add my strong support to the container terminal operators as you consider their application to proceed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon O'Brien', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

SIMON O'BRIEN MLC
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT