



A Co-operative venture of the municipalities of:
Cockburn, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Kwinana, Melville & Rockingham

Date: May 28, 2010
Contact: Chris Fitzhardinge (08) 9364 0631
Reference: SWG National Ports Strategy May 2010

The Infrastructure Coordinator
Infrastructure Australia
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SOUTH WEST GROUP SUBMISSION ON THE PROPOSED NATIONAL PORTS STRATEGY

The South West Group supports a National Ports Strategy supported by a National Freight Strategy involving Infrastructure Australia and the National Transport Commission.

The productivity and future economic growth of the South West Corridor of metropolitan Perth is intrinsically bound up with the efficiency and security of its port precinct stretching from Fremantle to Garden Island.

Development of future port capability with well planned freight corridors is essential with the added complexity that Cockburn Sound is already the most intensively used marine embayment in Western Australia with high environmental and recreation value. Port development within this rapidly growing region and its \$20 billion economy must also be compatible with urban and commercial growth.

There has been an absence of strategic rail planning in Western Australia with an unrealistic expectation that rail corridors developed a century ago through urban areas are going to continue to provide the capability of dealing with a massive increase in the transport task.

Port planning needs to include the capability to have access by high productivity freight vehicles and rail with double stacked container capability. Freight corridors also need to be capable of serving as infrastructure corridors for broadband, energy and waste.

The proposed independent panel to have oversight of the implementation of the Strategy should be larger than 4 people as it should have access to expertise from different parts of Australia as well as experience in areas such as intermodal hubs, container handling, bulk commodities, heavy haulage, regional planning, engineering and port operations.

The National Ports Strategy should have explicit targets for a proportion of containers handled by rail and for bulk commodities transported to and from the port.

In some cases a precinct approach may need to be taken for ports which share shipping channels or transport infrastructure. This precinct approach may also need to include constraints or opportunities provided by Defence activity.

Fremantle Inner Harbour and Cockburn Sound including the Stirling Naval Base should be regarded as a relevant port precinct for the strategy.

The freight corridors should include high wide load corridors and for the South West Corridor the freight corridors would have a reach of 20 kilometres from the port precinct to provide linkages to Tonkin Highway, Kwinana Freeway and the Kewdale intermodal hub. The alignment and linkages to these freight corridors need to be protected under statutory planning schemes. A review needs to be undertaken of key rail corridors serving strategic ports to identify that their reserves are adequate to deal with the type and volume of goods to be transported to 2050.

There should be multiple time horizons for the planning of ports:

2100 for climate change and sea level rise impacts

2050 for freight projections, port planning, freight corridors and urban development

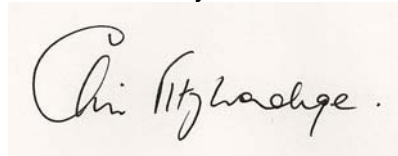
2031 for structure planning and interfaces with surrounding industrial and urban development

Updating of the strategy could be between five to ten years.

The nominated person in 3.2 page 36 needs to have access to resources to undertake the task. For instance if the Director of the WA Planning and Transport Research Centre (PATREC) were given this task for Western Australia additional funding would need to be provided.

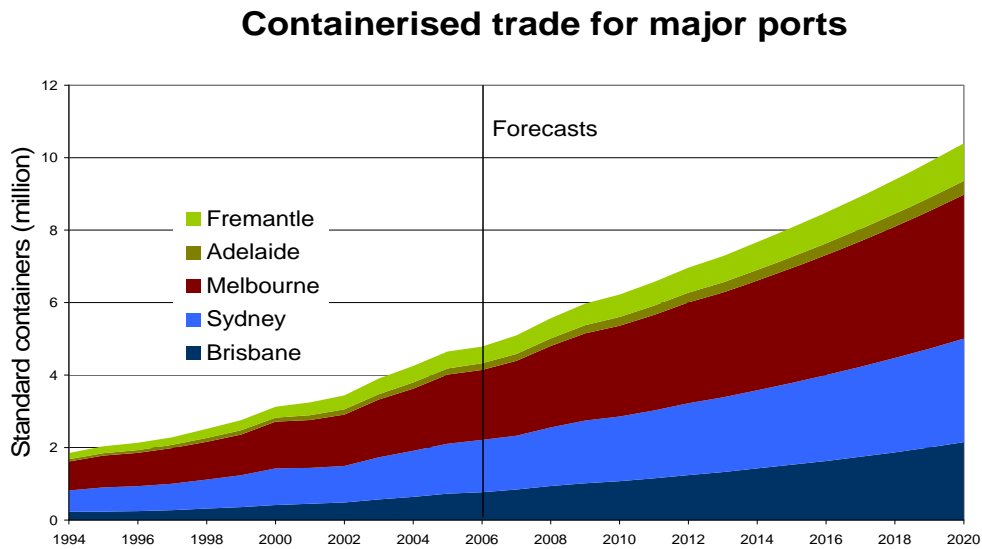
Governments should not be precluded from subsidising rail transport to and from ports to meet explicit targets for freight on rail.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored rectangular background. The signature reads "Chris Fitzhardinge" in a cursive script.

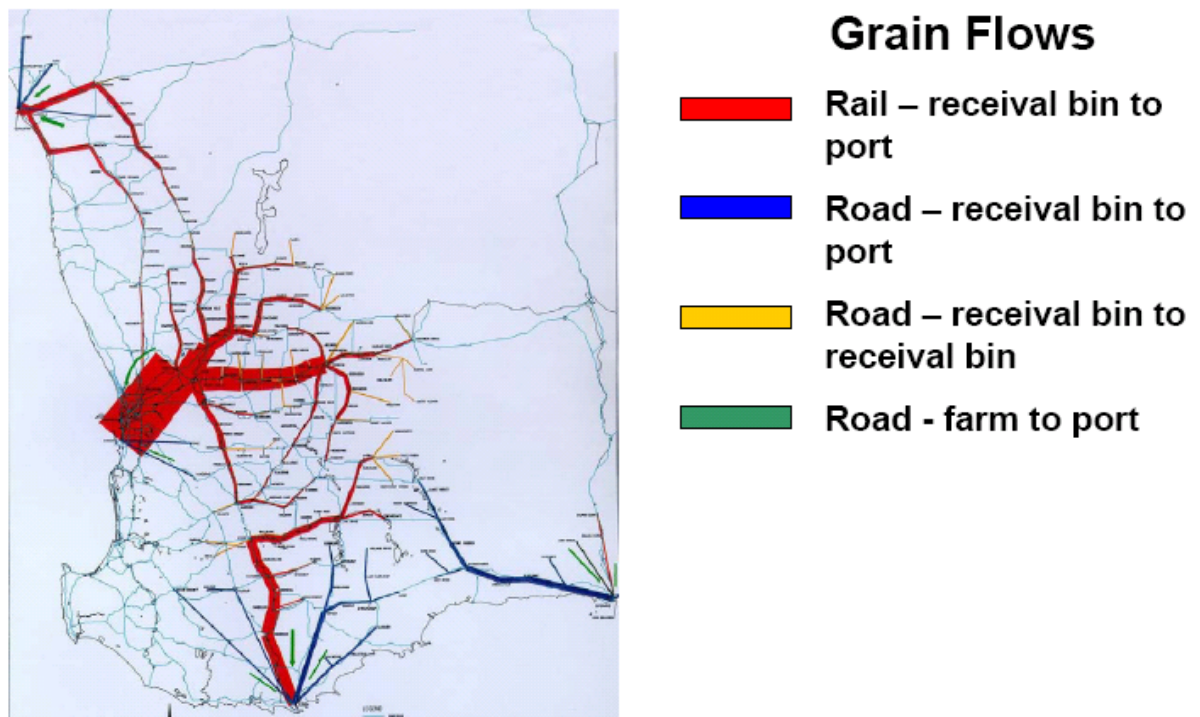
Chris Fitzhardinge
Director South West Group

**FIGURE 1
FREMANTLE HAS A STRONG GROWTH OUTLOOK FOR
CONTAINERISED TRADE**



Source BITRE Working Paper 65

**FIGURE 2
FREMANTLE IS A MAJOR GRAIN EXPORT PORT REQUIRING EFFICIENT
TRANSPORT LINKAGES**





SOUTH WEST GROUP

The South West Group, formed in November 1983, is a Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (VROC). It comprises the Cities of Cockburn, Fremantle, Melville, and Rockingham, and the Towns of East Fremantle and Kwinana. The South West Group is managed by a Board consisting of the Mayors and CEOs of its member local government authorities.

The South West Group seeks to work with these six local governments and through cooperation with industry, community and the other spheres of government to capture a wide range of opportunities to enhance economic growth as well as supporting a diversity of quality lifestyles whilst servicing and sustaining cohesive, productive communities in an enviable environmental setting.

The South West Group will be persuasive, forward looking and influential in representing, supporting and promoting Local Government interests that affect the growth and sustainable development of South Metropolitan Perth.

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SOUTH METROPOLITAN REGION

KEY INFORMATION

Area	619.4 square kilometres (approximately 50 km long by an average 12km width)
Location	South Western Quarter of Metropolitan Perth bounded by the Canning River, Swan River, Fremantle Harbour, Cockburn Sound, Warnbro Sound and generally 2 km east of the Kwinana Freeway alignment.
Economic Infrastructure	Fremantle Port, Australian Marine Complex, Kwinana Industrial Area, HMAS Stirling, Jandakot Airport
Current Population June 2009	353,582 (ABS 3218.0 2010)
Population Growth 2004 to 2009	2.8% (ABS 3218.0 2010)
Projected Population 2020	424,400 (Based on ABS and WAPC information)
Participation Rate	66.4% (ABS 6291.0.55.001 April 2010)
Employed	178,300 (ABS 6291.0.55.001 April 2010)
Unemployment Rate	5.9% (ABS 6291.0.55.001 April 2010)
Indigenous Population	1.4% (Census 2006)
Overseas Born Population	31.5% (Census 2006)
Personal Income	\$8,696 million (ATO 2006/07)
Building Approvals	\$2,653 million (ABS July 2009 to March 2010)
Registered Motor Vehicles	233,131 (ABS as at 31/3/2006)

