

Habitat Melbourne Trust

Patrons: Sir Ninian Stephen, Ross Mellor and Anna Mellor
Chairman: Prof Allan Rodger
Secretary: Ken King
Board Members: Stephen Axford, Stan Cox, Fred Maddern
habitattrustmelbourne.org.au tel 9044 7534



The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
Canberra

27th October 2015

Dear Prime Minister,

Melbourne Infrastructure

We of the Habitat Trust have been very pleased to see you establishing, as one of your first initiatives, a Ministry for Cities and the Built Environment and welcome the appointment the Hon Jamie Briggs MP as the Minister. This development is long overdue and very welcome.

We also wish to welcome your new approach to infrastructure and in particular your recognition of the fact that an appropriate urban infrastructure plan must encompass much more than a commitment to building roads. Your identification of the importance of rail within cities and across non-urban regions opens up new and exciting prospects for prosperity, well-being and sustainability.

From its inception the Habitat Trust has been committed to advancing the public good. Located in the Western Suburbs of Melbourne this has resulted in a particular involvement with the operations and impacts of the logistics industry both within these suburbs but also more widely across the metropolitan area and across the four-state hinterland that it serves. Central, of course, to this is the Port of Melbourne.

In the course of this year the Habitat Trust has advanced several propositions to the State Government about the longer-term and shorter-term development of Melbourne's logistics infrastructure. These are provided as attachments to this letter.

The submission of 8th January sets out our overall vision. That of 25th June affirmed our support for rail connection between the docks and inland ports being advanced by Salta Properties as an appropriate mid-term solution that would greatly improve the present situation while also allowing time to develop the longer-term systems we had previously proposed. In the light of no action on the rail to inland ports proposal and the ensuing public discussion about the West Gate and/or Western Distributor road-based

proposals Habitat prepared a comparison assessment. That is the subject of a letter to the Premier of 24th August. These three letters and their attachments are available on the Habitat website: www.habitattrustmelbourne.org.au

The current situation is that a significant improvement in the overall performance of the logistics industry is immediately available. The State has previously invested \$350M in an overpass in Footscray Road to provide direct rail access to Swanston Dock and Appleton Dock. Private developers have already created three Inland Ports located immediately alongside rail: Altona in the west and Lyndhurst in the south-east by Salta Properties and Somerton in the north by Austrak. For the remaining work to finalise the rail connections into the three Inland Ports the Commonwealth has already assigned \$30M and the State Government has for some years had \$20M assigned in its budget. Appropriate access to the rail system has been successfully negotiated. The lead-time for implementation is one year once a decision to proceed is made by the State.

A further major benefit of the proposed rail-to-inland-ports project is that it offers the opportunity for significant improvements in border security since it would allow 100% on-rail scanning of all freight leaving the port for the inland ports with no consequential delays. Current practice is to investigate only a small percentage of this freight; this causes significant delays and of course results in significant quantities of illicit goods entering the country.

Here is a project that is immediately available, is already fully funded in the Commonwealth and State budgets, offers significant alleviation of the currently congested, socially disruptive and polluting road transport system and provides a host of other social, environmental and national security benefits. As this is an important strategic component of Australia's national infrastructure we exhort you to ensure immediate implementation of this project for which Commonwealth and State moneys are already allocated. Further, we would appreciate receiving your Government's intentions on this proposed rail-to-inland-ports project.

Yours Sincerely,



Allan Rodger
Chairman, The Habitat Melbourne Trust
tel: 03 9044 7534 e-mail: allan@rodger.id.au

Copy to:

The Hon. Scott Morrison MP, Treasurer.
The Hon. Warren Truss MP, Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development.
The Hon. Peter Dutton MP, Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.
The Hon. Jamie Briggs MP, Minister for Cities and the Built Environment.
The Hon. Daniel Andrews MP, Premier of Victoria.



Australian Government
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ANDREW FISHER BUILDING
ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON

Reference Number: C15/110683

Professor Allan RODGER
405/20 Pier Lane
MARIBYRNONG VIC 3032

Dear Professor Rodger

Thank you for your correspondence dated 27 October 2015 to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your correspondence.

Your views are noted and they are important. A strong democracy and a responsive government always require constant feedback from its people about the issues that concern them.

The matters raised in your correspondence relate to the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development. As such, the Prime Minister has referred your correspondence for a response.

Further details about contacting the Minister and department can be found at www.gold.gov.au.

Thank you again for writing to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A Fisher'.

Ministerial and Parliamentary Support Branch

09 November 2015

Habitat Melbourne Trust

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The Hon Warren Truss, MP
Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

12th November 2015

Dear Minister,

Melbourne Infrastructure

Following our letter to the Prime Minister of 27th October that we copied to you (Attached 1) I have received an acknowledgement letter from the Ministerial and Parliamentary Support Branch of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Attachment 2).

From that I see that the Prime Minister has referred the matter to you and indicated that I might contact you as the responsible Minister.

In previous discussions with Kevin Badcock, General Manager Intermodal Development of Salta Properties, I understand that there have been discussions directly with you and further that you had demonstrated your support by committing \$38M to see the Rail to Inland Ports project implemented. The reality, however, is that nothing is being done. Meanwhile, Melbourne suffers from that element of very heavy traffic that connects the Port of Melbourne (Swanston and Appleton) to inland destinations (Inland Ports). This is particularly severe, one might say disastrously severe, in the Western and Northern Suburbs. Alongside these extensive and continuing road traffic and environmental degradation issues that are directly linked to the current delays is the potential of the proposed system greatly to improve Border Security.

I, and my colleagues of the Habitat Trust, urge you to take such action as is necessary to ensure that the Rail to Inland Ports project is implemented expeditiously. The present state of inactivity is simply unacceptable.

Yours sincerely,

Allan Rodger
Chairman, The Habitat Melbourne Trust
tel: 03 9044 7534 e-mail: allan@rodger.id.au