



27 July 2017

The Honourable Daniel Andrews MP
Premier of Victoria
Level 1
1 Treasury Place,
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Premier Andrews

Re: Dandenong South Inland Port Project (DSIP)

Premier, as you will be aware, Salta has been working on the DSIP project for over 13 years, closely following well-defined and long held Government freight policy. Indeed, it was the then Minister for Ports the Honourable Tim Pallas who was signatory to the most current Labor freight policy (2010) which specifically nominated Dandenong South as the desired location for an Inland Port in the South East.

Prior to the much needed level crossing removal project the DSIP rail link was straight forward to install, low cost, and unencumbered in its design and delivery timeline. The advent of the Abbots Road level crossing removal has created a clear time-bound need and a clear cost saving opportunity to concurrently install the rail link, an opportunity that cannot be allowed to pass by.

The CGD, SEMMA, Committee for Dandenong along with numerous local businesses including Salta have been working in close partnership with the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) and Transport for Victoria (TfV) regarding the opportunity to install a rail connection to the intermodal site together with the Abbots Road level crossing removal works. Good faith discussions regarding the design of the level crossing via the Business Liaison Group were chaired by local MP Gabrielle Williams. These agreed designs have recently been significantly changed meaning the rail link cannot happen concurrently. The consequences of this are profound. Not only would it be at a higher cost, inefficient, and economically less viable link to the inland port, the very concept of the inland port may well be destroyed.

Installing the rail link *in conjunction* with the level crossing works will save significant taxpayer funds, minimise disruption to passenger trains, and provide a timely delivery of this much needed project and show the Government's commitment to the project and the Region.

The benefits of the DSIP project are very well documented, in fact Southern Melbourne Regional Development Australia (RDA) are in the process of releasing an independent report into the cost savings to industry attributable to the DSIP operation. This report concludes that supply-chain savings are on average 23% but can be as high as 37%.

This saving would significantly improve the bottom line of exporters, importers, and manufactures in the South East enabling those improvements to be used to grow there businesses.. Furthermore, moving away from the 100% reliance on roads for metropolitan freight will reduce heavy truck numbers on the Monash freeway and key arterials around the Port of Melbourne at peak times. These are all benefits that your Government cannot turn its back on, in our view.

In addition to the significant economic and environmental benefits, the installation of the rail link will enable the commencement of a capital works program in excess of \$600m and create 2,600 direct and 6,300 indirect FTE jobs.

As you may be aware TfV are planning to allocate long held funds of \$58 million to multiple intermodal developments in Melbourne, however we now understand that these timelines have been extended to a minimum of 12 months from now and therefore preclude a concurrent development of the DSIP connection and the Abbots Road level crossing.

This project has many supporters including the South-East Melbourne (SEM) Group of Councils including Cardinia, Casey, Frankston, Kingston and Greater Dandenong, along with the Committee for Dandenong (C4D), and South East Melbourne Manufacturing Association (SEMMA). The Dandenong South Inland Port project is well known in the South East for providing a much needed efficiency gain for the import/export and manufacturing industries.

Premier we implore that you intervene in this matter and prioritise this unique, well supported, and beneficial project.

In short, investing in the Dandenong South Intermodal Port rail connection creates jobs, reduces costs to business, and reduces road congestion. South East Melbourne urges you to advocate to Minister for Public Transport, Jacinta Allan and to Minister Luke Donnellan to fund this vital project immediately.

Yours sincerely



Jim Memeti
Mayor
City of Greater Dandenong



Simon Whiteley
President
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Committee 4 Dandenong