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10 October 2017

Port Hedland Dust Management Taskforce
Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation
Level 6, 1 Adelaide Terrace
EAST PERTH WA 6004

via email: porthedlanddust@jtsi.wa.gov.au

Dear Chairman,

SUBMISSION TO THE PORT HEDLAND DUST MANAGEMENT TASKFORCE

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Western Australia (CCI) thanks you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Port Hedland Dust Management Taskforce's Report to Government (the report).

CCI is the peak body representing employers in Western Australia. We represent more than 9,000 small, medium and large businesses, not-for-profit organisations, and government enterprises across the spectrum of the State's economy and from all regions of WA. Our vision is for Western Australia to be a world-leading place to live and do business.

CCI encourages responsible and equitable business and employment practices, contributes to educational and social programs and support environmentally sustainable business operations.

CCI represents a number of businesses which operate in Port Hedland and takes an interest in the issues being considered by the Taskforce. While the CCI is not a member of the Taskforce, it supports the collaborative approach taken by the Taskforce to support the long term orderly development and expansion of the Port which is critical to the economic future of Port Hedland, Western Australia and Australia.

As the world's largest bulk export facility, the Port of Port Hedland plays an essential role in securing the economic and social prosperity of the Town of Port Hedland, the State of Western Australia and the nation. As the Port grows, so will jobs and business opportunities across the region. Such an approach will provide confidence in the process through the balanced consideration of all issues collectively, and deliver certainty for industry and the future of the Port.

CCI has considered the Taskforce's recommendations for sustainably managing the growth of the Port of Port Hedland and makes the following comments:

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accordance with CCI's Privacy Policy.

Recommendation 1 – Health Risk Assessment – Interim Guideline.

CCI supports the retention of the interim guideline of 24-hour PM₁₀ of 70 µg/m³ (+10 exceedances to accommodate natural events) and the continuation of compliance monitoring in residential areas of Port Hedland including at Taplin Street.

However, it is important that this guideline is applied in the context of the Port Hedland environment, and to note the highly conservative nature of the interim health guideline which is derived from research and conditions dissimilar to the Port Hedland context.

Recommendation 2 – Air Quality Monitoring

CCI supports the recommendation for the continued operation of the air quality monitoring network.

However, CCI strongly recommends the DWER assume full responsibility for the monitoring network to instil greater confidence in data integrity through the independence and transparency of DWER. This should be achieved without any additional regulation being placed on industry.

Recommendation 3 – Environmental Regulation

CCI supports the recommendation for the implementation of a co-ordinated, risk-based approach to industry regulation. This should be conducted in accordance with established regulations under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

Furthermore, CCI recommends that this approach give due consideration to local environmental conditions, the lack of an established land use buffer and a reduction in the number of permanent residents in sensitive areas over time. In the context of a risk-based framework, it is also important to consider the need for certainty in the short term to be balanced with long term sustainable growth of the port and community, such that regulations should not inhibit the operational capacity or efficiency of the Port.

Recommendation 4 – Noise Levels

CCI supports the DER assessment of noise based on a precinct-wide approach as first suggested by the Taskforce in 2010.

Assessment of noise should not be limited to the port precinct, and should consider transport corridors — including assessing town planning implications for South Hedland and East End. It is also important that any consequent land use planning or additional regulation of noise does not introduce regulatory uncertainty and/or a new land use conflict issues.

Recommendation 5 – Land Use Planning

CCI supports the need for immediate certainty on town planning through the implementation of a Special Control Area to cap and reduce permanent residents around the Port.

Recommendation 6 – Local Community and Government (Background Dust)

CCI supports the recommendation that the Town of Port Hedland work with key stakeholders to identify and mitigate background dust, noting there is considerable opportunity to achieve improved and sustained reductions in overall dust levels, of which background is a substantial contributor.

Recommendation 7 – Continuing operation of the Taskforce

CCI endorses the recommendation that the Taskforce continues to operate, and recommends greater opportunity for community engagement in the Taskforce process.

Furthermore, CCI supports the Taskforce reporting annually to the Minister, and recommends the publication of an annual report to inform community members of Taskforce activities, achievements and progress on the implementation of recommendations.

As the world's largest bulk export facility, the Port of Port Hedland plays an essential role in securing the economic and social prosperity of the Town of Port Hedland, the State of Western Australia and the nation.

CCI welcomes a collaborative approach to resolving potential land use conflicts but believes the State Government must drive this process. Such an approach will provide confidence in the process through the balanced consideration of all issues and risks collectively, and deliver certainty for industry and the future of the Port.

Should you have any questions regarding this submission, please contact Sean Reddan on sean.reddan@cciwa.com or 08 9365 7575.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Deidre Willmott.

Deidre Willmott
Chief Executive

