



OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING
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28 MAR 2003

Dear Mr Smithson

Rainbow 2000[®] - A Regional Planning Strategy for Albany & Great Southern

Thank you for your letter dated 17 January 2003 regarding the possible relocation of the Albany Port.

Your letter outlines your views on this issue and invites the Minister and Chief of Staff to be briefed about your plan to relocate the Port.

The intent of your proposal to overcome freight access and land use conflict is acknowledged. There is no indecision on the Government's part, however, about the issue. As mentioned in my previous letter, relocating the Port is unlikely to be given further consideration given the high cost and the uncertainty about whether it would resolve community concerns regarding heavy road freight. In addition there may be significant environmental impacts. The Government's preference is to develop lower cost solutions that will manage heavy freight movements and land uses.

Your invitation to the Minister to be briefed on your plan is appreciated. For the reasons outlined above, however, we respectfully decline your offer.

Thank you again for your letter regarding these issues.

Yours sincerely


LYN SHERWOOD
CHIEF OF STAFF