



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

PO Box 6021, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 | Phone: (02) 6277 2152

14 August 2017

Mr Peter Brohier
143 Kooyong Road
Nth. Caulfield VIC 3161

Dear Mr Brohier,

This is to provide you with an update on the progress of your recent petition on the following terms.

Petition number: PN0073 *(Please quote in future correspondence)*

Date received: 03/8/2017

Number of signatures: 1

Terms:

- **Reason:** This petition draws the attention of the House, to a motion, carried without amendment, at the 44th Federal Council of the Liberal Party. "That this Federal Council believes that the Federal Coalition policy should: - Recognise that shipping across Bass Strait is Tasmania's link to the National Highway system; - Have in the context of national economic and community access objectives, an obligation to provide a more equitable transport situation for Tasmania by increasing financial assistance for sea passenger travel across Bass Strait; - Provide such assistance to Tasmania as an addition to its existing National Highway funding arrangements as it is consistent with the economic and community benefits that this program aims to deliver; - Ensure that the quantum of funding be the equivalent amortized capital cost (over 20 years) and maintenance cost spent per kilometre on present National Highways by the Commonwealth for the total distance of Bass Strait (measured) Devonport to Melbourne; and - Ensure that the principal beneficiaries of such funding should be travelers across Bass Strait, and that there should be flexibility in how such funds are deployed to benefit this target group."
- **Request:** In view of the motions merits, I request the House call on the Treasurer to explain; -Why no meaningful highway performance criteria cover Canberra's sea passenger funding? -Why special interest needs replace equity, GST and national economic integration objectives? -Are the underlying causes of the Productivity Commission's recommendation to replace equalization with unspecified subsidies, limiting growth and eroding democracy?

The petition was considered at a recent meeting of the Committee, and certified as meeting the requirements for petitions. It was presented to the House on 14/8/2017 and has recently been referred to the Treasurer. Under the petition requirements, Ministers have 90 days from presentation in the House to respond to a petition.

The petition details can be found on the House's petition website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/petitions>.

Thank you for your interest and involvement in petitioning the House of Representatives. We will let you know if there are any updates to your petition.

Yours sincerely

Secretariat
Petition Committee