

Lindsay Tuckwell
Deputy Chair

www.agriculture.org.au

Agribusiness Council of Australia Ltd
PO Box 3327
Manuka ACT 2603
AUSTRALIA



Growing Solutions

A submission to the Economic and Industry Standing Committee Inquiry into the Management of the Freight Rail Network from the Agribusiness Council of Australia.

The Agribusiness Council of Australia (ACA) believes that the long term protection and enhancement of the public asset (i.e. the rail freight network) is paramount. Even under conditions of outsourcing such an asset under a long term lease, the WA Government must ensure that the asset is returned in as good or better condition than it was at the beginning of the lease.

The best way of ensuring this is to allow full and transparent access to the contract terms and conditions (exemption being on pricing) by the public, including any subsequent contract variations thereto.

Since full access is not available on this contract which concerns a major WA taxpayer's asset, the Government should also investigate the causal reasons behind why the contract and contract variations cannot be scrutinised by the public.

Irrespective of any reasons the contract and any variations (for the full life of the contract) not being made available to the public, they must now be released, and continue to be available to the public for the remainder of the master contract period (i.e. the full term of the outsourced lease arrangements)

The ACA is extremely concerned that this issue is having a huge impact on the supply chain of grain from WA growers to WA ports.

We thank you for the opportunity to make this submission

Lindsay Tuckwell Deputy Chair Agribusiness Council of Australia

16 April 2014