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Attn The Chairman
POHC John Warburton
Port of Hastings Corporation
P.O. Box 129
Hastings Vic 3915

Re: The Port of Hastings Land Use and Transport Strategy Consultation Draft.

This proposal has not been given the publicity that it warrants. The impacts of this massive proposal are far reaching and could result in serious damage to Westernport Bay, terrible suffering and financial hardship to many innocent people and result in a monumental failure and waste of public money. The Public Consultation process has been seriously flawed. The full ramifications and consequences have not been properly explained therefore the public has no way of knowing the extent of the possible devastation. There has not been adequate time allowed for any kind of meaningful input.

The proposed dredging of Westernport Bay is, I believe, unacceptable for environmental reasons. No comprehensive upfront Environmental Effects Statement (i.e. not in stages) is proposed which could eliminate the viability of this project from the outset. Furthermore no proper economic study, (not even a preliminary study appears to have been done for the project) has been provided to validate this proposal which again, I believe, would eliminate the viability of this project. No project of this scale should even be contemplated without a full economic study especially considering public access overlays could be put in place soon but which may never be required and could ruin many lives. The potential health problems will result in a further strain on our economy

Socially the implications will be devastating to the area. NO private or public acquisitions should be brought to bear on a landowner until all the economic, full upfront environmental effects statement and social issues have been resolved to see if the project is even feasible.

Also, we should not be attempting to export coal with our climate change problems – we will be the facilitators of increasing emissions overseas and we should still be held accountable for that. We feel our lives will be adversely affected by the noise, toxic fumes of diesel trucks and 1.2 km diesel freight trains, the area will become industrialised and Westernport Bay destroyed for no net gains.

We totally object to the Port of Hastings Land Use and Transport Strategy for all the above reasons. We feel in 2006/07, to waste government money like this is totally unacceptable.

Yours sincerely,

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