



SENATOR THE HON PENNY WONG
Minister for Finance and Deregulation

REF:C11/3615

Senator Rachel Siewert
Senator for Western Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

Rachel

Thank you for your letter of 7 November 2011, following up on earlier correspondence regarding the transfer of former Commonwealth land at Point Peron, Western Australia. I apologise for the delay in responding to your earlier correspondence.

As requested, please find attached a copy of the correspondence from the then Prime Minister, John Gorton, to the then Premier of Western Australia, David Brand, in relation to this issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Penny Wong', written over a printed name.

Penny Wong

11 NOV 2011

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17 NOV 1957

Dear Mr. Brand,

You wrote on 5 January 1956 to my predecessor seeking the concurrence of the Commonwealth Government in the use of the eastern part of the Point area reserve for industrial purposes associated with the harbour and transportation complex, which your Government plans for the area, and also with the development of Carreening Bay, if the Commonwealth Government were to decide to proceed with this work. It was also proposed that a sewerage treatment plant be built toward the western end of the area. You will recall that we spoke about these matters when I visited Western Australia not long ago, and that you subsequently wrote to me on 25 October.

To take first the matter of the development of Carreening Bay, the Commonwealth authorities are studying the Consultants' report on this project and it is expected that a decision will be taken in the context of the Commonwealth's current defence review. In these circumstances the Commonwealth has excluded any consideration of its possible interest in the development of Carreening Bay from its examination of your request.

The examination which the Commonwealth has made of your proposal has taken longer than was hoped because of the necessity to make a careful assessment of all the various issues involved. In the event this proved to be a complicated and therefore lengthy process. However, I am now in a position to advise you that the Commonwealth, on the understanding that the two areas which the State wishes to use for its proposed sewerage treatment plant and for its works in connection with its proposed harbour and transport complex will not be used for private, industrial, commercial, or residential development, has no objection to the particular areas of land, totalling some 150-160 acres, being used for the State development projects which you have described, provided that the conditions applied in the original transfer of this land be observed, namely that the rights of existing leaseholders will be preserved. The Commonwealth in arriving at this conclusion is conscious that the proposed State works would have advantages at both the State and national levels.

I look forward to hearing from you whether this meets your needs.

Yours sincerely,

J. G. GORTON

(J.G. GORTON)

The Honourable D. Brand,
M.L.A.,
Premier of Western Australia,
Perth, W.A.

Received with Mrs. P.A. Gorton