

**Request to be heard?:** Yes

**Precinct:** General

**Full Name:** Johanna Maxwell

**Organisation:** Docklands Chamber of Commerce

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:**

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** The Docklands Chamber of Commerce represents almost 200 businesses within this precinct. Our main priorities are to promote business in the area and to advocate on behalf of the wider precinct. It is with the latter in mind that our attention is drawn to the planning surrounding Fishermans bend . Our Primary concern is the unresolved design and operational issues surrounding the proposed freight bridge spanning Victoria Harbour. We are in agreement that there will be an exponential demand on Victoria's ports in the coming years and note the 'Infrastructure Victoria' report that states the future Bay West port would be a more favourable option in increasing capacity. However, should it be decided that a freight bridge is indeed needed to connect Fishermans bend with the Docklands port then it is imperative that this span does not hinder ongoing use of the waterways for river traffic and marine operations, as indeed it is for any pedestrian or cycle bridges. The Bolte bridge currently has a maximum clearance of just 28m. We have heard rumours of plans for a span as low as 8m which would rule out the heritage fleet, the super yachts that moor at the marina over summer, some of our charter operators, our commuter ferries and certainly any yacht. We seek assurances within the planning process that the design of this proposed freight corridor, or any pedestrian/cycle bridges will not further impinge on this clearance and that the design will be harmonious to the goal of Docklands being a jewel in the crown of Melbourne. We actually see this as an opportunity to further enhance the beauty that is our harbour, rather than limit it's uses for all generations to come. Aside from assurances that this freight corridor will not impact on the marine and commercial use of Victoria Harbour we also ask to be involved within the consultative process and to be afforded the availability to organise stakeholder engagement forums connecting all interested parties. Docklands continues to grow and we thoroughly support the development of Fishermans' Bend and the infrastructure needed to support this precinct. We do however believe that the development of Fishermans' Bend should not be detrimental to Docklands and that any bridges built impinging on the access to our harbour would be just that. Our waterways are the jewel in the crown for Melbourne and need to be respected and protected for all generations to come. Johanna Maxwell and Shane Wylie President and Vice President – Docklands Chamber of Commerce [president@docklandsc.com.au](mailto:president@docklandsc.com.au) Ph: 0414267359 [vicepresident@docklandsc.com.au](mailto:vicepresident@docklandsc.com.au)