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RETHINK THE LINK CALLS FOR WESTERN HARBOURS ALLIANCE

A reboot of WA thinking is occurring around transport planning with solid momentum building in favour of a Kwinana Outer Harbour in response to the needs of industry and the community.

Rethink the Link, after successfully campaigning to have the Roe 8/Perth Freight Link cancelled, continues to promote sustainable transport solutions and now has its eye firmly on efforts by industry and governments at all levels to address freight and general transport planning.

“We have been following closely the Outer Harbour forums hosted by the Curtin University Sustainability Institute and Kwinana Industries Council” said Kim Dravnieks, Coordinator of Rethink The Link. “We are pleased to see good investigative research on all aspects of a harbour plan including rail and road logistics being undertaken and shared publicly, and adding to the excellent work done by the City of Kwinana over the past two years.”

Rethink The Link have been in discussions with several bodies and are now formulating a plan to establish the ‘Western Harbours Alliance’.

The alliance would aspire to bring together a number of stakeholders including community and environment groups, transport and logistics groups, port, industry, tourism and commerce interests, and local governments. It would give confidence to the government to press on with its planned Kwinana and Fremantle harbour redevelopment plans and provide a voice for the wider community.

“I think we have a unique opportunity in history to show that good planning can take into account triple bottom line processes,” said Ms Dravnieks “and we now have a government that has an attitude of openness and accountability, which has to be a winning formula for all involved.”

This alliance will be about creating jobs, best environmental outcomes, economic stimulus for port-based local governments and new tourism opportunities. It can be done in a way that doesn’t create a further drain on the State’s finances. All we need to do is be creative, together, government and community, for the benefit of Western Australia

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