

4th October 2022

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Project Iron Boomerang

Many thanks for the opportunity to make a submission.

Iron Boomerang is a no-brainer, but I'm concerned it will be evaluated by the narrow economic factors of identified-and-listed income and expenditure, rather than being viewed as "priming the pump" for industrial development in Australia.

"Priming the pump" is open-ended, because it can't predict the types of development that will take place as a result of its existence. It takes some faith too.

For example, Iron Boomerang could eventually open the door to some of the following industries and products:

- Steel billets
- Rolled steel for joists
- Assal mills making seamless tubes
- Bearings using seamless tubes
- Machine tools
- Pressed steel for vehicle panels
- Foundry for vehicle engines
- A vehicle production industry
- Agricultural tractors, headers and implements
- Mining vehicles and equipment
- Medical machines and hypodermics
- White-goods
- Fixings such as nuts, bolts, screws and brackets
- Shipbuilding
- Chains including anchors and chains
- Aircraft-making - using the skills built up from industries above
- Many service industries such as housing, lunch bars, OK&S, traffic control, post offices etc
- Training of Australians and overseas people

I'm sure the Senate Committee can list many other direct and indirect industries and products, but probably few of these would be listed in a simple "return on capital invested" approach. This is nation-building; it shouldn't be narrowly assessed.

Many thanks

John Bird