

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

**Sir/Madam,**

I would like to make the following to your committee on Inquiry into the investment of Commonwealth and State funds in public passenger transport infrastructure and services.

I believe there should be a shipping service between Darwin, the Indian ocean territories of Christmas and Cocos Islands, and Fremantle. This service could be operated utilising a heavy lift amphibious vessel. I would propose that the vessel be crewed by a number of trained members of the Island communities as well as merchant marine personnel. The vessel would also be standby for service to the Australian Defence Organisation should the need arise. A vessel of this nature would be invaluable and ready at short notice for service in emergency or extra heavy lift requirements for Defence.

I believe this proposal would help the local population with employment as well as providing a useful service. The vessel would also be able to transport visitors to the islands. I assume a large number of visitors (including backpackers) would avail themselves of the service as well enabling more economic growth to the islands.

Regards,

Shane Phillips