

NATIONAL PUBLIC LOBBY

Access to Justice Submission

I know of no access to the Australian court system that would allow an issue impacting on all Australians, based on the interpretation Article 117 of the Australian Constitution, to be brought with the certainty of not having costs awarded against an applicant.

See submissions by the National Public Lobby, the National Sea Highway, Peter Brohier and Phil na Champassak to the Productivity Commission's current Tasmanian Shipping and Freight Inquiry.

In this case, it seems to me that once some form of determination of merit of a case has been made by a legal practitioner or no cost tribunal and, subject to meeting a public interest test, access to the court system should be facilitated without any threat of costs being born by applicants.

Peter Brohier
NPL