

GERALDTON PORT — IRON ORE EXPORTS

1215. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the minister representing the Minister for Ports:

I refer to the export of iron ore product at the port of Geraldton.

- (1) In what forms was iron ore exported through the port during 2020–21, 2021–22 and 2022–23 and 2023 to date?
- (2) Can the minister provide details of the environmental licences granted to the Mid West Ports Authority under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 for the export of iron ore?
- (3) What dust suppression methods are used at the port of Geraldton to prevent fugitive dust emissions related to the receipt, storage and export of iron ore?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I provide this answer on behalf of the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Ports.

- (1) Hematite and magnetite iron ore in both fines and lump was exported from the port of Geraldton for the years indicated.
- (2) Mid West Ports Authority holds an environmental licence—licence number L4275/1982/15—issued by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, DWER, which grants approval for bulk material loading and unloading for a number of materials, including iron ore.
- (3) MWPA use a number of dust suppression methods to prevent fugitive dust emissions, including the use of enclosed facilities for the storage and handling of iron ore. MWPA also monitors air quality through a network of monitors and reports the outcome of this monitoring to DWER on an annual basis. Improving air quality has been an important focus for MWPA over the last two years and significant improvement has been realised through a revised dust management plan, whole-of-port wind modelling, the installation of a DustTamer fence along Marine Terrace, installation of dust suppression fogging on the iron ore circuit, and the installation of a product moisture monitor. Further dust suppression fogging will be installed on the berth 5 ship loader before the end of this calendar year. MWPA invested \$1.15 million in dust improvement projects in 2022–23.