

ESPERANCE PORT — THIRD PARTY ACCESS

402. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Ports:

I refer to recent media regarding the difficulties midwest and Yilgarn-based iron ore projects are experiencing in gaining access to the port of Esperance.

- (1) Are there currently in place third party access rules at the port, such that the existing iron ore in-loading, rail, storage sheds, conveyor systems and ship loader cannot be unreasonably withheld from prospective exporters?
- (2) If yes to (1), will the minister please table a copy of those rules?
- (3) If no to (1), why not?
- (4) Is it the government's intention to provide prospective iron ore exporters with royalty relief and concession handling rate arrangements, as has been the case previously?
- (5) If no to (4), why not?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(5) A third party access regime is in place that requires relevant parties to act reasonably in respect of unused infrastructure capacity. When the port receives a request for access and determines that spare capacity exists, the parties negotiate the access. The majority of cargo-handling infrastructure is not subject to exclusive rights and any application for use by a proponent would be worked through by the port.