

ESPERANCE LEAD CONTAMINATION

302. Hon PAUL LLEWELLYN to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

I refer to the Esperance lead clean-up, and the answer to question without notice 236, which reveals that the government has already spent \$7.5 million on the Esperance lead clean-up and has committed a further \$2 million.

- (1) What specific steps has the government taken to recover from Magellan Metals Pty Ltd the costs relating to the Esperance lead clean-up?
- (2) Can the minister table any written correspondence or other communication between the state government and Magellan relating to the recovery of costs for the Esperance clean-up?
- (3) Why is the government proceeding with Magellan's controversial Fremantle proposal to export lead before the issues of the clean-up liability and compensation for Esperance residents are resolved?
- (4) What reasons has Magellan given for not contributing to the clean-up?
- (5) What steps will the government take to recover money spent on the Esperance clean-up to date?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

On behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, I thank the member for some notice of this question. The minister has provided the following response —

- (1) Officers of state government agencies, including the Esperance Port Authority, the Department of Environment and Conservation, the Department of Housing and Works, and the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection have met with representatives of Magellan Metals Pty Ltd and made clear the government's position that the company should contribute to the cost of the clean-up. The Esperance Port Authority has written to Magellan requesting that a contribution be made by the company.
- (2) No.
- (3) The Minister for the Environment has required that Magellan Metals implement a number of very strict conditions before the shipment of containerised lead through Fremantle can proceed. It has yet to be seen whether Magellan will be able to meet those conditions.
- (4) Magellan has consistently told the government that it would make a contribution to the clean-up. However, to date no contribution has been forthcoming.
- (5) The state government is considering what actions are available.