

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PORTS

1123. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) On what date did the minister receive the report into the review of Western Australian ports?
- (2) When does the minister expect to make a decision on the recommended changes to the structure of WA ports?
- (3) When does the minister expect to grant approval for the expansion of the Esperance port to commence and when does the minister expect the expansion will be completed?
- (4) What rights or allocations do Cashmere Iron or Australian Infrastructure Group have in any expansion of the Esperance port?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. I have been advised by the Minister for Transport that it is noted that ports reform did not occur under the previous Labor government, nor was any significant action taken to improve the efficiency and capacity of Western Australia's ports. The most significant event relating to ports that occurred under Labor's watch was mismanagement at Esperance port which led to the poisoning of a community. The Liberal-National government has cleaned up that mess.

- (1) The final report was received in September 2011.
- (2) After cabinet considers the report.
- (3) The Minister for Transport will await advice from the Esperance Port Authority on the outcome of the independent assessment of the expansion plan. Expansion will occur after the Deloitte report is received. It should be noted that this is a separate process to that of the review of WA ports.
- (4) The rights and allocations of mining companies are being considered by the Esperance Port Authority as part of its current review of procurement options for the expansion.