

RESOURCES SECTOR — EXPORTS

134. Hon Darren West to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to the Chamber of Minerals and Energy (CME) *State Growth Outlook 2013 Report* that estimates exports from mining and energy companies from Western Australian ports will increase 200 million tonnes per annum by 2016 and by almost 300 million tonnes per annum by 2019, and ask:

- (a) can the Minister verify that the CME's estimates are correct, or will they be larger than forecast;
- (b) what strain will this increase place on the State's mining infrastructure; and
- (c) what plans are being put in place to transfer the current construction-based mining workforce towards an operations-based workforce?

Hon Ken Baston replied:

The Department of Mines and Petroleum has advised:

- (a) The Chamber of Minerals and Energy's (CME) *State Growth Outlook 2013* estimates total exports by the resources sector from Port Authority ports between 2016 and 2019 will increase by around 57 million tonnes. This estimate equates to an annual average increase of about 19 million tonnes per annum over this period.

CME's estimates are based on a survey of industry stakeholders in June and July 2012. They express industry stakeholder opinions at that time about future trends in export volumes and are not intended to be definitive.

CME's longer term predictions are similar to the Government's growth estimates expressed in the Department of Transport's Western Australia Regional Freight Transport Network Plan published this year.

However, any estimate of future growth occurs against a background of future fluctuations in market demand for commodities and changing global economic conditions.

- (b) It is inevitable that growth in the resources sector will increase demand on infrastructure. Growth estimates, such as those published by the CME and the Department of Transport are useful in assessing and planning for infrastructure requirements to support the resources sector into the future. The Government is also working to ensure that appropriate port planning, governance and regulations are in place to facilitate future investment in port capacity.
- (c) Skilling WA is the State Government's comprehensive plan to manage the State's training needs and priorities. This plan is under review to ensure it continues to reflect workforce demand. As part of the Skilling WA framework, the Government has also developed Regional Workforce Development Plans in collaboration with local employers, industry, local government and state and federal government agencies.