

PORT AUTHORITIES — STATEMENTS OF CORPORATE INTENT

488. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

This question is from Hon Ken Travers who is also out of the house on urgent parliamentary business.

I refer to section 61 of the Port Authorities Act 1999, which requires —

A board and the Minister must try to reach agreement on a statement of corporate intent as soon as possible and, in any event not later than the start of the next financial year.

I refer also to section 65, which requires that a copy be laid before Parliament within 14 days of an agreement being reached.

- (1) Is the Premier aware that no port authority statements of corporate intent for 2011–12 have been tabled in the Legislative Council?
- (2) Is the Premier concerned that the statements have not been tabled?
- (3) What action will the Premier take to ensure that agreement is reached and the statements are tabled?
- (4) Will the Premier ensure that agreement is reached before the start of the financial year for all port authorities' statements of corporate intent for 2012–13; and, if not, why not?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

On behalf of the Leader of the House representing the Premier, I thank the honourable member for notice of the question. It is a pity the author of the question is away from the chamber on urgent parliamentary business.

- (1) Yes.
- (2)–(4) Section 66 of the Port Authorities Act 1999 requires the Treasurer's concurrence to a statement of corporate intent. Concurrence cannot be conditionally provided and must await the finalisation of the budget process to ensure that the SCI is consistent with the government's financial parameters, priorities and objectives. It should also be noted that the Department of Treasury is undertaking a review of SCIs through work it is currently undertaking to establish umbrella legislation for public corporations, as proposed by the Economic Audit Committee final report of 2009.

This review is examining the underlying reasons for noncompliance with legislative requirements and has the objective of providing appropriate incentives to ensure SCIs are tabled in Parliament within legislated time frames, including better integrating the SCI and state budget processes.