

ESPERANCE PORT — NICKEL LANDING FACILITY

**451. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Premier:**

In December 2008 the Premier pledged to upgrade the nickel handling facility at the Esperance port, at the approximate cost of \$100 million, with the work to be completed in two years. Can the Premier explain why no money is listed in the budget over the next four years for this work?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:**

The first stage of the upgrade of the Esperance port will, from memory, cost about \$38 million. That work is currently being designed. It will ultimately operate on a user-pays basis and it will proceed. Once that is done, we intend to proceed with a completely sealed system. That is a longer term project and will probably take another 18 months to be completed.

**Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan:** Why isn't it in the budget?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** It will be done. I assure the member for Gosnells, whom I know has a genuine interest in the environment, that the commitment I made to the people of Esperance in front of 300 people will be honoured, and that work is about to get underway.