

PORT AUTHORITIES — NON-TABLING OF STATEMENTS OF CORPORATE INTENT

3273. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport

I refer to the WA Auditor General Audit Results Report Annual 2009-10 Assurance Audits Report 10 Nov 2010, and in particular to pages 26 and 27, where they refer to annual Statements of Corporate Intent (SCI). The Report states that fifteen of the twenty two Agencies have not tabled SCIs for 2010-2011 and that, 'Widespread non-compliance with legislative requirement to table annual statements of Corporate Intent continues', and I ask —

- (1) What is the reason that SCIs have not been tabled for the years —
 - (a) 2008-09;
 - (b) 2009-10; and
 - (c) 2010-11 —
for the Port Authorities of —
 - (i) Bunbury;
 - (ii) Dampier;
 - (iii) Geraldton; and
 - (iv) Port Hedland?
- (2) What is the reason that a SCI for Broome Port Authority has not been tabled for the 2010-11 period?
- (3) What is the reason a SCI has not been tabled for Esperance Port Authority since the 2007-08 period?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

The Department of Transport advises:

- (1) (a) (i)-(iv) The 2008-09 Statements of Corporate Intent for the port authorities of Bunbury, Dampier, Geraldton and Port Hedland were submitted to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure under the previous (Labor) Government. The then Department for Planning and Infrastructure reviewed and analysed the documents for the information of the Minister in preparation for tabling in Parliament. However, the tabling of the documents did not occur prior to the Government announcing the 2008 State election.

As the 2008-09 Statements of Corporate Intent for the port authorities of Bunbury, Dampier, Geraldton and Port Hedland were originally submitted to the previous Government and were not updated to reflect the new Government's priorities and the approved financial parameters stemming from the 2008-09 Mid Year Review, the Treasurer was not prepared to concur with the approval of the documents without further revision. Given the effluxion of time since the 2008-09 Statements of Corporate Intent were originally submitted and the fact that the port authorities had by this time submitted their respective 2009-10 Statements of Corporate Intent to the Minister for Transport, there was no further benefit in devoting resources toward revising the 2008-09 Statements of Corporate Intent, because the documents were superseded by the 2009-10 Statements of Corporate Intent. Consequently, the 2008-09 Statements of Corporate Intent for the port authorities of Bunbury, Dampier, Geraldton and Port Hedland were not tabled in Parliament.

- (b) The 2009-10 Statements of Corporate Intent for some of port authorities could not be tabled within the prescribed time because the plans of the relevant port authorities contained references to unapproved capital works resulting in the Treasurer being unable to give his concurrence to the approval of the documents.

The 2009-10 Statements of Corporate Intent for the port authorities of Bunbury, Dampier, Geraldton and Port Hedland were tabled in the Legislative Council as follows:

- (i) Bunbury Port Authority: Legislative Council Tabled Paper No. 2661, tabled on 12 October 2010;
- (ii) Dampier Port Authority: Legislative Council Tabled Paper No. 2663, tabled on 12 October 2010;

- (iii) Geraldton Port Authority: Legislative Council Tabled Paper No. 2667, tabled on 12 October 2010; and
 - (iv) Port Hedland Port Authority: Legislative Council Tabled Paper No. 2669, tabled on 12 October 2010.
- (c) The 2010-11 Statements of Corporate Intent for the port authorities of Bunbury, Dampier, Geraldton and Port Hedland were tabled in the Legislative Council as follows:
- (i) Bunbury Port Authority: Legislative Council Tabled Paper No. 2662, tabled on 12 October 2010;
 - (ii) Dampier Port Authority: Legislative Council Tabled Paper No. 2664, tabled on 12 October 2010;
 - (iii) Geraldton Port Authority: Legislative Council Tabled Paper No. 2668, tabled on 12 October 2010; and
 - (iv) Port Hedland Port Authority: Legislative Council Tabled Paper No. 2670, tabled on 12 October 2010.
- (2) The Minister for Transport approved the 2010-11 Statement of Corporate Intent for the Broome Port Authority on 1 February 2011. Effective action is currently occurring to have the document tabled in both Houses of Parliament at the earliest opportunity.
- (3) The 2007-08 Statement of Corporate Intent of the Esperance Port Authority (EPA) was received by the then Minister for Planning and Infrastructure on 15 December 2006. A report by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure analysing the document was submitted to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure in March 2007.

The continual evolving issues associated with the impact of the extraordinary event of the lead incident in March 2006 at the Port of Esperance where the local community and the resulting inquiries contributed to the uncertainties of financial responsibility. Potential litigation and the request for additional borrowings to fund lead remediation activities in the community and the port resulted in the Esperance Port Authority submitting an amended 2007-08 Statement of Corporate Intent that reflected the impact of the lead issue. Evolving events at that time continued to affect the financial position of the port and impacted the 2007-08 Statement of Corporate Intent accurately reflecting the financial position of the Esperance Port Authority. The general uncertainty at that time resulted in the Esperance Port Authority's 2007-08 Statement of Corporate Intent not being approved by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure and the document was not tabled in Parliament.

The 2008-09 Statement of Corporate Intent for the Esperance Port Authority was originally submitted to the previous Government and was not updated to reflect the new Government's priorities and the approved financial parameters stemming from the 2008-09 Mid Year Review. As a result, the Treasurer was not prepared to concur with the approval of the document without further revision. Given the effluxion of time since the 2008-09 Statement of Corporate Intent was originally submitted and the fact that the Esperance Port Authority had by this time submitted its 2009-10 Statements of Corporate Intent to the Minister for Transport, there was no further benefit in devoting resources toward revising the 2008-09 Statement of Corporate Intent, because the document was superseded by the 2009-10 Statement of Corporate Intent. Consequently, the 2008-09 Statement of Corporate Intent for the Esperance Port Authority was not tabled in Parliament.

The Esperance Port Authority's 2009-10 and 2010-11 Statements of Corporate Intent have been tabled in the Legislative Council as follows:

- Tabled Paper No. 2665, tabled on 12-Oct-2010; and
- Tabled Paper No. 2666, tabled on 12-Oct-2010 respectively.