

RAIL FREIGHT — INCREASE

3028. Hon Lynn MacLaren to the Minister for Transport

- (1) In what ways is the Government supporting the objective of increasing rail freight?
- (2) What strategies are in place or under development to increase the amount of freight being transported by rail?
- (3) Has the Government set a goal of how much road freight is to be converted to rail freight?
- (4) What percentage of freight is currently carried by rail to and from —
 - (a) Fremantle port; and
 - (b) Kwinana port?
- (5) What is the percentage of freight is proposed to be carried by rail to and from the new Fremantle port anticipated to be constructed in Cockburn Sound?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) The State Government is supporting rail through -
 - The Government provides a \$45 per Twenty foot Equivalent Unit (TEU) for containers to be transported by rail to and from the North Quay Rail Terminal at the Fremantle Inner Harbour. Currently nearly 11 per cent of containers entering and exiting the Inner Harbour travel by rail which is over 62,000 TEUs.
 - The State Government is providing nearly \$179 million for rail and road works for the grain freight network in collaboration with the Commonwealth which is contributing \$135 million. Of this combined amount, \$188 million is specifically going to the rail network upgrade. This will keep the majority of the grain harvest on rail and not on the road from bins to ports.
- (2) The Government is undertaking planning work to facilitate increased volumes of containers on rail to the Inner Harbour over the medium term. This work will provide for a larger Inter-Modal Terminal in the Kewdale/Forrestfield area, a passing loop on the rail line between Kewdale and the Inner Harbour and extended rail works at the North Quay Rail Terminal. The work is aimed at increasing containers on rail up to 300,000 — 350,000 TEU.

The Government is supporting projects such as the new Oakajee Port and railway line and the Tilley-Karara railway to ensure commodities are moved by rail.
- (3) No.
- (4) (a) Fremantle Inner Harbour — approximately 11 per cent (general cargo such as livestock, steel and motor vehicles is moved by road transport). The percentage of container trade carried by rail is currently running at nearly 11 per cent.
(b) Fremantle Outer Harbour (Kwinana) — approximately 40 per cent.
- (5) Planning for port facilities at Cockburn Sound is incorporating rail transport as a major service provider. It is not possible to say at this stage what proportion will move by rail.