

BUNBURY PORT — GOODS TRANSPORT

5945. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport

I refer to the expected increasing transport of goods in and out of the Bunbury port, and I ask —

- (1) Will the Minister please provide details of tonnage (by produce and mode of transport) that is currently transported through the Bunbury Port?
- (2) Will the Minister please provide details of the anticipated tonnage (by produce and mode of transport) for the next five years?
- (3) What, if any, alternatives to increased trucking are being considered for transport to and from Bunbury Port?
- (4) Will the Government reopen or assist with the reopening of the North Greenbushes-Bunbury railway?
- (5) If yes to (4), when?
- (6) If no to (4), why not?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

The Department of Transport advises:

- (1) For 2011-12:  
Alumina, 9.496 million tonnes, Rail; Woodchips, 1.390 million tonnes, Road; Caustic Soda, 1.188 million tonnes, Rail; Silica Sand, 0.350 million tonnes, Road; Mineral Sands, 0.805 million tonnes, Road; Spodumene, 0.397 million tonnes, Road; Other, 0.647 million tonnes, Road
- (2) Anticipated tonnage for the next five years:  
Alumina, 56 million tonnes, Rail; Woodchips, 8.552 million tonnes, Road; Caustic Soda, 6.84 million tonnes, Rail; Silica Sand, 1.35 million tonnes, Road; Mineral Sands, 3.854 million tonnes, Road; Spodumene, 2.5 million tonnes, Road; Other, 3.436 million tonnes, Road  
Future tonnages are dependent on many factors including economic conditions and commercial decisions.
- (3) The best possible transport solution is always chosen to suit the task.
- (4)-(6) Brookfield Rail Pty Ltd operates the railway under its lease agreement with the Public Transport Authority on a commercial basis and demand for rail services and volumes to be transported are therefore of relevance.  
Future plans and freight activity on this line will depend on commercial arrangements made between Brookfield Rail Pty Ltd and any potential customers seeking to operate a rail service.  
The State Government may re-consider the issue should the demand from customers make the service financially viable.