

**Kimberley Ports Authority —**

Mr D.A.E. Scaife, Chair.

Ms R. Saffioti, Minister for Ports.

Mr L. Westlake, Chief Executive Officer.

Mr C. Nganga, Chief Financial Officer.

Mr P. Laing, Senior Policy Adviser.

[Witnesses introduced.]

**The CHAIR:** This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof *Hansard* will be available online as soon as possible within two business days. Questions must relate to the operations and budget of the off-budget authority. The chair will allow as many questions as possible. Questions and answers should be short and to the point.

A minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee. I will ask the minister to clearly indicate what information they agree to provide and will then allocate a reference number. Supplementary information should be provided to the principal clerk by noon on Friday, 2 June 2023. If a minister suggests that a matter be put on notice, members should use the online questions on notice system to submit their questions.

Are there any questions?

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** Yes.

**The CHAIR:** The Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** Thanks, minister, and thanks to the people from the Kimberley Ports Authority; welcome.

I want to start by discussing the Kimberley ports amalgamation and where that process is at. The amalgamation between Wyndham, Derby and Broome is mentioned in the significant issues impacting the Kimberley Ports Authority. Can the minister give us an update on its progress?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** I ask Mr Westlake to provide the answer.

**Mr L. Westlake:** It has fully transitioned, so the ports of Derby, Wyndham and Yampi Sound are under the authority of the Kimberley Ports Authority.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** I would like to ask some questions about the situation at the Derby port. We know it was critical in supplying parts of the eastern side of the West Kimberley in recent times. What is the situation with the port at the moment in terms of its capacity to have larger vessels visit? Is it completely reliant on a barge trade? Can the minister outline how its operations are structured?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** It received a number of shipments, particularly with the Kimberley flooding. I think there is some discussion about potentially expanding the capacity at Derby, but I will ask Mr Westlake to provide further details.

**Mr L. Westlake:** There are very few port users in Derby. There are no international trade imports or exports. It services Mount Gibson Iron's Koolan Island iron ore operation, primarily with barges and landing craft. It also services Barramundi Group's Cone Bay barramundi operations. Fish is imported over the wharf and fodder and ice are the export products to those operations. Other than that, small cruise and fishing vessels are the only trade there. The facility caters well for that trade.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** I understand there is a mineral sands mine in the nearby area that is looking at exporting from either Broome or Derby. Does the minister have any knowledge of that?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** I refer that to Mr Westlake.

**Mr L. Westlake:** Kimberley Mineral Sands is looking at exporting mineral sands and its intent is to export through Broome. It looked at Derby as an option. If it were to export through Derby, it would have to do it as a transshipment operation and that is largely due to the depth—the access—in the berth pocket. Therefore, it is looking to export through Broome.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** In terms of a strategy going forward, does the minister see Broome being the only option for a more active port facility? Derby does not sound like it has a great deal of capacity unless there is a large investment.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** There are a couple of things to look at through the Kimberley. We are looking at the resilience of the whole area and making sure that places like Derby can receive essential products more easily in the future.

Wyndham is an area in which we have a lot of prospectivity and a lot of interest. There is a number of companies looking at what can happen at Wyndham to support their export activities. I know that the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade recently met with a number of proponents who are all scoping Wyndham as a potential

export hub. I think Wyndham is being seriously considered for a number of different types of exports and given its strategic location, this is something we are very keen to continue to explore.

**Mr L. Westlake:** I will add that Derby has the potential to be an export facility, so if there are interested parties and trade looking to export out of Derby, that certainly is still an option.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** The minister mentioned transshipping, which is taking off in the Onslow area with iron ore. Is that something that the government would ever envisage investing in, or would it be something that a private investor would need to come forward with a plan for?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** In relation to investment, we normally support more common-user infrastructure. Therefore, we see the majority of government investment in facilities that can be used by a number of different proponents. Of course, we would all like to see further economic activity in Derby, particularly at the port. I am not sure. The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation is always looking at how it can invest to support more common-user facilities rather than directly supporting one proponent.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** I return to the proposal for mineral sand exports through Broome and what that will mean. I assume that strictly speaking this question is outside the ports brief, but what concerns are there around the development of heavy traffic through an area that is basically between Cable Beach and the town? Has there been any thought or discussions about the need for further development of the transport system to the port as part of any proposal to have more significant bulk exports?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** This is probably more of an issue for Main Roads than for Ports. A traffic impact assessment will need to be undertaken and a traffic management plan will need to be prepared. That will involve more community consultation to make sure we limit the impact of new traffic in the community. That is all required to be undertaken.

[2.40 pm]

**Mr P. LILBURNE:** I have a new question.

**The CHAIR:** Member for Carine, I am not minded to, given the amount of time we have left for this session.

That completes the examination of the Kimberley Ports Authority.