

PORT AND FREIGHT MOVEMENT INVESTMENT

667. Ms L. DALTON to the Minister for Ports:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's investment in job-creating and economy-driving infrastructure across Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister please update the house on projects underway to support Western Australian trade?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house how these investments will drive economic growth, support business and create more jobs?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Geraldton for the question.

- (1)–(2) Of course, as part of our drive to continue to not only grow, but also diversify the Western Australian economy, investment in ports and freight movement across the state is very, very important. Economic infrastructure for Western Australia—our port infrastructure—is fundamental to the continued growth of and our ability to diversify the WA economy. That is why, member for Geraldton, we are investing over \$300 million in Geraldton to facilitate further trade and new trade through that port and to make sure that Geraldton continues to be an economic powerhouse. We are also investing record amounts in infrastructure in the Kimberley. For the ports in the Pilbara, the economic powerhouse of the nation, we will be investing in more common-user infrastructure across both Port Hedland and Dampier. We welcome the contribution of the federal government of over \$500 million for common-user infrastructure at Lumsden Point and also through Dampier port. This will provide the ability to increase our trade volume and expand the material that we can put through our ports.

The other key project that we are delivering is the expansion of grain freight movements throughout regional Western Australia. We are working with Arc Infrastructure and CBH Group, with a joint investment of \$200 million. This means, for example, expanding the rail capacity in regional WA.

There is a lot of catch-up still to be done because of the previous government's policy decisions to privatise Westrail freight, close tier 3 rail lines and spend \$20 million to sell Fremantle port. There is a lot to unwind. We are investing across the state to encourage and enhance our economic opportunities in the future.