

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

Mid West Ports Authority

Hon Steve Martin MLC asked:

- 1) I refer to page 654, Desired Outcome 7, 'Run a Safe, Efficient and Cost Effective Service Offering' of Budget Paper No. 2 Budget Statements Volume 2:
- a) Can the Authority advise how many hours of berth usage have been lost due to the impacts of long wave surge at Geraldton Port; and

**Answer:** In 2020-21, Berth 3 was impacted by long wave surge for a total of 739 hours. Berths 4, 5, 6 and 7 were impacted for an average of 1105 hours.

- b) Can the Authority please detail the measures being undertaken to reduce the impact of long wave surge?

**Answer:** Mid West Ports are investigating a number of short and long-term solutions, including upgrading berth infrastructure to allow for the increased use of shore tension units. A further study by oceanographic experts into reducing long-wave surge and berth closure times is also underway.

- 2) I refer to page 654, BP3 of Budget Paper No. 2 Budget Statements Volume 2, over the past year, how many days did the Port operate at full capacity?

**Answer:** Daily throughput at all ports depends on a range of factors, including weather, timing of maintenance and repair works, shipping schedules, and trade demand. Noting that some trades are cyclical, most notably agriculture products.

- 3) I refer to page 654, BP4 of Budget Paper No. 2 Budget Statements Volume 2, what measures are being undertaken to improve the utilisation of existing berth infrastructure at Geraldton Port?

**Answer:** The Geraldton Port Master Plan and Port Maximisation Project will see the improvement in the utilisation of existing berth infrastructure. As part of this, \$8 million has been allocated to commence land acquisition and road improvements at the port precinct. MWPA is also undertaking an internal business improvement program to improve the utilisation of Berth 4 and the overall efficiency of the end-to-end process of shipping and loading operations throughout the port.

Minister's initials

