

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS  
ANSWERS TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

**Southern Ports Authority**

Hon Colin de Grussa MLC asked:

- 1) The Government has stated that the commercial agreements with Mineral Resources for the export of iron ore through the Port of Esperance will cease upon the cessation of the financial support arrangements (when MRL will reach their capped 30 million tons).
  - a) With this in mind, can the Government confirm that all port infrastructure related to the handling of iron ore at the Port of Esperance will revert to the control of the Southern Ports Authority - including the Rotary Car Dumper and Wagon Belly Dumper, Hopper and associated conveyor system; and
  - b) Is it the Government's intent for the Rotary Car Dumper and Wagon Belly Dumper, Hopper and associated conveyor system to fall under the control of the Southern Ports Authority for any future iron ore export agreements - such that the port is in full control of what iron ore is exported through the port, rather than an external party?

**Answer (a-b):** The Southern Ports Authority (SPA) already has ultimate control over the iron ore circuit and capacity decisions.

- 2) I refer to the potential expiration of the subsidy and commercial arrangements for the export of iron ore by Mineral Resources through the Port of Esperance.
  - (a) Has Southern Ports Authority investigated the potential for it to assume control of the ingoing ore wagon dumping infrastructure (rotary and belly dumping) once any agreements have ended;
  - (b) What options are the Government considering if iron ore exports cease – both in terms of meeting the costs of any future maintenance of the iron ore infrastructure and the retention of jobs at the Port of Esperance or associated iron ore supply chain; and
  - (c) Is the Government contemplating future financial support for the export of iron ore through the Port?

**Answer (a-c):** SPA already has ultimate control over the iron ore circuit and capacity decisions.

Esperance has a very positive future, with strong short and long-term demand from iron ore exporters. Any future support for the export of iron ore is likely to be directed to enabling supply chain infrastructure accessible to all potential exporters.

Minister's initials

