



EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE

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MEDIA RELEASE

From: Hon Dr Kim Hames, MLA
Acting Chairman

To: ALL MEDIA

Date: 5 April 2007

INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSE AND EXTENT OF LEAD POLLUTION IN THE ESPERANCE AREA

On 4 April 2007, the Legislative Assembly referred to the Education and Health Standing Committee the following Terms of Reference.

(1) That the Education and Health Standing Committee be requested to inquire into and report by 16 August 2007, on the cause and extent of lead pollution in the Esperance area, with specific reference to the following matters -

- (a) how the environmental approval process for the transport and export of pelletised lead enabled the transport and export of granulated lead;
- (b) the effectiveness of dust monitoring and reporting in relation to lead levels in the area and the adequacy of the response to those reported levels;
- (c) the extent to which handling and other practices at Esperance Port gave rise to the benthic lead levels in the harbour;
- (d) whether the Esperance Port Authority properly exercised its responsibilities in relation to the potential lead pollution;
- (e) whether the Department of Environment and Conservation's responsibilities in relation to the Esperance Port Authority processes, practices and procedures, including the legal and regulatory framework, were adequate and properly exercised; and
- (f) that the Committee is given power to investigate any other issues pertinent to the cause and extent of lead pollution in the Esperance area.

(2) The Members for Roe and Peel be appointed as members of the Education and Health Standing Committee for the purpose only of the inquiry into the Cause and Extent of Lead Pollution in the Esperance Area.

The Committee had its first meeting on 5 April 2007. At that meeting the Committee's Chairman, Hon Tom Stephens MLA, drew members' attention to his previous association with a stakeholder and felt that it was in the best interests of the Committee that he stood aside as Chairman. Hon Kim Hames MLA, the Committee's Deputy Chairman, therefore is acting as Chairman for this inquiry.

The full membership of the Committee for this inquiry are the Member for Dawesville (Hon Dr Kim Hames, MLA), Acting Chairman; Member for Central Kimberley-Pilbara (Hon Tom Stephens, MLA); the Member for Wanneroo (Mrs Dianne Guise, MLA); the Member for Bassendean (Mr Martin Whitely, MLA); the Member for Wagin (Mr Terry Waldron, MLA); the Member for Roe (Dr Graham Jacobs); and the Member for Peel (Mr Paul Papalia).