

FREMANTLE PORT — LEAD EXPORTS

198. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Environment:

Will the minister advise whether she believes that the transportation of lead through the port of Fremantle is safe?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

I have said many times that the proposal, with the conditions that I have set, can and does meet the health, environment and safety concerns raised by the community. Otherwise, I would not have approved the transportation in the first place. That decision was based on independent advice received from the Environmental Protection Authority that states that there is only a remote possibility that lead carbonate concentrate will escape into the environment and present a health risk to the community. Those are the words of the EPA; they are not my words. That is the advice I was provided by the EPA. I sought advice from the Appeals Convenor at the State Solicitor's Office to make sure that the conditions that I have set are rigorous and strict. The conditions are stricter than those the previous government would have implemented if not for the early call for an election.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: But is it safe?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER: I have said that they can and do meet the health, environment and safety concerns raised by the community. I have advised Magellan Metals that it is my very clear expectation that it will not only meet but exceed those conditions.