

ESPERANCE PORT - STORAGE AND HANDLING OF NICKEL CONCENTRATE

4970. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment

I refer to a letter dated 14 February 2007 signed by Caron Goodbourn from the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Esperance Port Authority (Esp PA) concerning an inspection of the Esperance Port, and I ask -

- (1) Can the Minister explain was the DEC concerned to state 'The DEC has received several recent odour complaints, and due to the close proximity to nearby residents, it is expected that that the Esp PA will ensure all possible points where odour may escape the nickel storage and handling system will be appropriately repaired or managed to ensure there are no unreasonable emissions outside the premises boundary'?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) Can the Minister explain what is the importance under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, of the DEC referring to the 'premises boundary' for any emissions at any premises?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

- (1) DEC was concerned about odour emissions from the storage and handling of nickel concentrate at the Esperance port and about complaints received. The letter referred to and further correspondence directed the Esperance Port Authority to investigate ways of preventing odour emissions through management techniques and repair of the handling system.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The premises boundary in this instance refers to the area of the port that is licensed as a prescribed premises under Section 56 (1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986. DEC is concerned that odours that may affect the community do not extend beyond the premises boundary.
- (4) Not applicable.