

PORT HEDLAND ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

513. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development:

I refer the minister to an announcement dated 25 May 2003, made by the Premier, of the Port Hedland enhancement scheme.

- (1) Why was that announcement made more than a year before the funds would be made available?
- (2) Why did the Government not provide funding in the 2003-04 financial year?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1)-(2) It does not surprise me that a member of the Opposition would ask a question as stupid as that. The Opposition is made up of a group of members from a Government that did no planning for its budget decisions by the time it left office. We found ourselves with a set of commitments that the former Government claimed to have made but for which it had not left any budget allocations to deliver those commitments.

Hon Norman Moore: We have done more in regional Western Australia than you would have thought of.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members!

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Unlike the former Government, when we make a commitment, we plan for the roll out of that commitment.

Hon Norman Moore: You did not tell them when the money was coming.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: We did that from the start.

Hon Norman Moore: The press release does not mention when the money is to be made available.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members!

Hon Barry House: It is part of the Government's strategy to announce something five times.

Hon Norman Moore: It is the Geoff "Good News" Gallop syndrome.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members! Hon Simon O'Brien is waiting patiently to ask a question while other members try to slip in additional questions.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: We made it absolutely clear to the council that the BHP Billiton funds would flow first, and the Government's funds would flow after that.