

LEAD EXPORTS — FREMANTLE PORT

Hon PAUL LLEWELLYN to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for the Environment:

I refer to the controversial proposal by Magellan Metals to ship lead carbonate through the Fremantle port and to transport it through many highly populated suburbs.

- (1) Will the minister impose an additional requirement on Magellan Metals to process the lead into solid ingot form at the minesite before transportation to avoid the public safety risk associated with the transportation of lead carbonate?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided an answer in the following terms —

- (1) No.
- (2) The minister is obliged to consider the proposal submitted for environmental approval. The minister concluded that Magellan Metals' proposed method for handling and transport procedures for lead carbonate to be exported through the Fremantle port, subject to strict conditions recommended by the Environmental Protection Authority and additional checks and balances added by the minister, will ensure a much lower risk to the environment and human health and safety than the previous proposal and is environmentally acceptable. Magellan Metals' environmental proposal to ship lead through the Fremantle port does not involve the production of solid ingots. The minister has also made it clear to Magellan Metals that, given the company's record, he will not hesitate to use the powers available to him under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 to require the operation to cease if a breach occurs.