

PORT HEDLAND TRANSPORT CORRIDOR FUNDING

**241. Hon SHELLEY EATON to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the minister's media statement of Thursday, 5 March 2009, which refers to a state request for \$600 million from the federal government to fix transport corridors identified in Port Hedland, to address issues associated with the movement of iron ore to the port of Port Hedland.

- (1) Which transport corridors in Port Hedland will be fixed with the \$600 million the minister is lobbying the federal government for?
- (2) Will the minister commit to upgrading these corridors with or without federal government funding?

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:**

- (1) The transport corridor in Port Hedland referred to in my media release of 5 March 2009 is the Great Northern Highway configuration. The \$600 million is required for the ultimate road solution, which allows for further expansion of the rail crossings, grade separation at intersections and realignment of the road. An initial commitment of \$200 million comprises state and commonwealth funding to construct the initial realignment and some grade separation under the Nation Building program. Additional funds in the order of \$400 million will be required for interchanges and railway bridges associated with the development of the Port Hedland port, including Utah Point and BHP Billiton expansion plans.
- (2) Further state funding, other than that already committed, is subject to the government's budgetary process.