

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**Question on notice**

**Thursday, 22 March 2012**

7582. Mr T.G. Stephens to the Minister for Transport.

(1) Will the Premier provide full details of any steps that have been taken by any Western Australian government department or agency to advance Hunt Point at Port Hedland for use for industrial infrastructure/tug pen?

(2) Is the Premier aware that there was government, company and community sign-off on the preferred location of Lumsden Point for this proposed facility?

(3) Is the State Government aware that the preferred proposed facility at Lumsden Point would position a regional shipping terminal in an area where the Federal Government has previously made an agreement with the State Government to fund and build a major road access route and corridor, and that the planning and development work for this major road link project is now already well advanced?

(4) Does the State Government consider it reasonable that just seven days were allowed for, over the Christmas and New Year period, as the period for community input and comment and consultation on this proposal for a dramatic change in land use in Port Hedland?

(5) If no to (4), will the Premier intervene and secure full opportunities for the Hedland community and others with an interest in these local land use issues to engage in effective consultations about the future of both Hunt Point and the previously preferred transport hub that was proposed for Lumsden Point?

(6) Will the State Government outline to the Hedland community the size and height of any sea wall that will be necessary to protect the safety of proposed infrastructure at Hunt Point and any assessment that has been made about the impact on the amenity of that area for the local community?

(7) Would the Premier undertake to ensure that the many safety, amenity, environmental, risk management, and infrastructure logistics issues are fully assessed and taken on board by all of the relevant State Government agencies and that due diligence is exercised before this project is further advanced towards approval?

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The Member should note that the following answers are being provided via the Minister for Transport as the relevant Minister. In relation to parts (1) (2) (5) and (7) the Member should be aware that the Minister cannot provide specific detail on behalf of the Premier.



**The Department of Transport advises:**

(1) At its meeting on 25 November 2011, the Port Hedland Port Authority Board of Directors unanimously approved the Hunt Point location for construction of a tug haven subject to an acceptable technical feasibility study being provided by BHP Billiton Iron Ore to the Port Hedland Port Authority and Ministerial approval of a Port Hedland Port Authority lease to BHP Billiton Iron Ore of an area at Hunt Point for the tug haven.

On 15 December 2011, BHP Billiton Iron Ore lodged a submission with the Environmental Protection Authority for assessment of the tug haven proposal (and the required dredging) under Section 38 (1) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. The Environmental Protection Authority assigned the proposal the assessment level of 'non-assessed – public notice given' on 23 January 2012.

As part of the Hunt Point development, the Port Hedland Port Authority negotiated a dredging and construction licence (compliant with environmental and other conditions) effective as of 1 April 2012. BHP Billiton Iron Ore secured a sea dumping permit to allow commencement of works from this date. The Port Hedland Port Authority also conducted hydrodynamic modelling and a review of the facility design.

(2) The Port Hedland Port Authority originally considered Lumsden Point as a possible co-location for a proposed tug haven.

While some minor geotechnical work was carried out and preliminary concept plans for the proposed overall facility at Lumsden were developed and costed, these were never progressed to any level of government, company or community 'sign off' or approval.

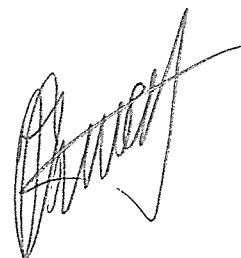
(3) Yes

(4) This question should be directed to the relevant agency/Minister.

(5) Not applicable

(6) The northern sea wall will be constructed to a height of 5.5 metres above high tide sea level and the southern sea wall to a height of 3.8 metres above high tide sea level.

(7) Proper assessment and processes regarding development will ensure the successful construction and operation of the facility.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Smith', located in the bottom right corner of the page.