

PORTS AND HARBOURS — FREMANTLE PORT — RAIL FREIGHT

3800. Ms S.F. McGurk to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What strategies has the State Government put in place to increase the percentage of freight from Fremantle Port that is being moved by rail?
- (2) What increases in freight to rail is the Government assuming will be achieved by these strategies?
- (3) What is the Government's current estimation of the price competitiveness of rail versus road?

Mr D.C. Nalder replied:

- (1) The main strategies involve:
investment in rail infrastructure at the Port and on the line servicing the Port
improvements to the efficiency of rail operations at the Port
continuing financial support for containers moved by rail
- (2) The target market share for rail remains at 30 per cent. Current market share for rail is around 14 per cent.
- (3) It is difficult for rail to compete effectively with road over the short haul distances which are involved with the greater part of the Fremantle container trade.