

Pilbara Ports Authority —

Mr S.J. Price, Chair.

Ms R. Saffioti, Minister for Lands.

Mr N. Sarandopoulos, Acting Chief Executive Officer.

Mr R. Farrell, Chief of Staff, Minister for Transport.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIR: This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof *Hansard* will be available the following day. Members may raise questions about matters relating to the operations and budget of the off-budget authority. Off-budget authority officers are recognised as ministerial advisers. It is the intention of the Chair to ensure that as many questions as possible are asked and answered and that both questions and answers are short and to the point. The minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee, rather than asking that the question be put on notice for the next sitting week. I ask the minister to clearly indicate what supplementary information she agrees to provide and I will then allocate a reference number. If supplementary information is to be provided, I seek the minister's cooperation in ensuring that it is delivered to the principal clerk by Friday, 1 June 2018. I caution members that if a minister asks that a matter be put on notice, it is up to the member to lodge the question on notice through the online questions system.

I give the call to the member for Scarborough.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I refer to page 35 of budget paper No 3 and the reference to the impact on profit of lower forecast export volumes through the Utah Point facility. What proportion of the operating costs of the Pilbara Ports Authority sits within Utah Point?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I not sure whether we have that information on the percentage that rests with Utah Point on hand, but I am happy to provide that by way of supplementary information.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Thank you.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I will provide the percentage of operating costs that are reflected by the Utah Point port operations.

[*Supplementary Information No A34.*]

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: If Utah Point is sold, will those operating costs flow through with the sale or will some of them need to remain with the Pilbara Ports Authority?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: There has been no decision on Utah Point. Analysis is being undertaken by government. All aspects in relation to the shared costs between Pilbara Ports Authority and Utah Point are factors in any analysis. I cannot make statements about a hypothetical sale, because the decision has not been made, but, as part of any analysis, all these issues with respect to shared costs and other infrastructure costs will be taken into account.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I refer to page 222 of budget paper No 3 and "Item 115: Pilbara Ports Authority", which has an approved excess of \$7 million. What does that figure relate to?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I will ask Nick to provide further explanation.

Mr N. Sarandopoulos: It represents the increase in equity contribution back from the state as a result of increased volumes through Utah Point. Because it is dividend exempt, we get a dividend exemption and that comes back through as equity contribution.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Last year, there were some increases in Pilbara Ports Authority's fees and charges. Are increases expected this year in fees and charges for port authority users?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: From 1 July 2018, there will be the following increases in fees and charges at the port: an increase of five per cent on port dues and tonnage fees at the port of Port Hedland and the port of Dampier, an increase of 30 per cent on bulk cargo wharfage at berths 1, 2 and 3 at the port of Port Hedland and an increase of seven per cent on all other fees at the port of Port Hedland and the port of Dampier, excluding the port improvement rate and other charges, such as land-related fees. I think that covers all the fees and charges.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: How much revenue are those increases expected to raise?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The revenue increase is expected to raise \$62 million over the forward estimates.

The CHAIR: That completes the examination of the Pilbara Ports Authority.