

FREMANTLE PORTS — PRIVATISATION

**463. Ms S.F. McGURK to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the sale of Fremantle Port and the significant fee increases of up to 800 per cent experienced at the Port of Melbourne after its privatisation.

**Mr D.T. Redman** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the National Party, I am just about to set a world record; I have not called anybody to order today. Do not break the record.

**Ms S.F. McGURK:** I will begin again.

I refer to the sale of Fremantle Port and the significant fee increases of up to 800 per cent experienced at the Port of Melbourne after its privatisation.

- (1) Can the minister guarantee that rental charges and associated costs will not increase when the port is sold, as they have in Sydney and are scheduled to in Melbourne?
- (2) Will the minister be heeding comments made by competition regulator Rod Sims in regards to conditions placed on privatising public assets? He said —  
“It’s an inefficient way for governments to raise revenue by putting in place inappropriate regulation or limits on competition in order to get a higher price,”
- (3) How will the sale of the port affect the establishment of a new port in Kwinana?

**Mr D.C. NALDER** replied:

I will share something here.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I just want to make one point. When you ask a question, can you please keep the question succinct, because when you come to the third part, the minister has forgotten the first part. I would rather you ask a supplementary question. Minister, answer the question.

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

- (1)–(3) What I want to share with the opposite side—I have never done that, because they always question that I am seeking answers from other people—is that I actually suffer industrial deafness. I have lost one-third of my hearing at the top of the range. That means that when there is other noise going on, at times, I cannot hear it properly, so I seek clarification from the people around me what has actually been asked; that is all I am doing.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! That is enough, member for Albany!

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** I think the member for Victoria Park has embarrassed himself enough in the last fortnight, not to continue to do it.

When we talk about the Fremantle port —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Move on! Members!

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** I think the member opposite is missing one important fact, for a start. We are actually not selling it; we are doing a long-term lease.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Swan, member for Warnbro; I call you both to order for the first time.

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** We understand the importance of ports for facilitating trade in the state. We have no question about the importance of ports for facilitating trade. We know we have the responsibility to ensure that the process we follow supports industry. We now need to work through that process because we have flagged we will do this and now we have to do the work, so we are doing the work, and the process will be chaired by the Treasurer. I am very comfortable that we will go through the proper due diligence and process to ensure that we do the best thing for Western Australia.