

**FREIGHT SUBSIDY ARRANGEMENTS — KIMBERLEY**

*Petition*

**HON NEIL THOMSON (Mining and Pastoral)** [10.01 am]: I present an e-petition containing 351 signatures couched in the following terms —

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled. We the undersigned ...

seek a review of the current freight subsidy arrangements implemented in response to the catastrophic floods that resulted in the destruction of the Fitzroy Crossing Bridge. The current subsidies are at the discretion of the DFES Controller and are based on emergency requirements of food and essentials with any other product transported in the same load rendering the entire freight load ineligible. Further, the current subsidies do not recognise the prolonged periods of high transport costs that face the Kimberley over the years until the construction of a new bridge is completed. Interim infrastructure arrangements may reduce the exceptionally high transport costs currently being experienced; however, all freight time delays will impact on the on business viability and the cost of living in the north until road-trains can traverse Highway 1 unimpeded. We therefore ask the Legislative Council to review the current freight subsidy arrangements to ensure transparency and recognise that business continuity underpins the future sustainability of the Kimberley region.

[See paper 2090.]