

GERALDTON PORT - DEMURRAGE COST

258. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

Given that the demurrage cost to industry is rapidly mounting because of the delay at the Geraldton port, I ask -

- (1) When will the iron ore ship loader at berth 5 be operational?
- (2) Will it have the capacity to handle the current and future expansion of the iron ore throughput, and to what level?
- (3) Will the government guarantee that there will not be cost escalation on the installation of the ship loader?

Hon ADELE FARINA replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. Unfortunately, I do not have an answer. I understand that the minister is interstate and an answer will be forthcoming.

Hon Murray Criddle: I asked this question last week. We have the same problem again.