

GERALDTON REGION - TRUCK MOVEMENTS

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

- (1) How many written complaints have been received regarding truck movements between Morawa and the Geraldton port?
- (2) How many verbal complaints have been received regarding truck movements between Morawa and the Geraldton port?
- (3) Can the minister specify to nature of the complaints?

Hon ADELE FARINA replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(2) Over the past two and a half years, a number of complaints have been received from motorists and residents highlighting road safety and amenity concerns as a result of the increase in heavy vehicle operations on the road network between Morawa and the Geraldton port. The communities primarily impacted are Morawa, Mingenew, Dongara and the Wandina-Tarcoola residential areas of Geraldton. In total, written complaints and/or objections have been received by the minister's office and/or Main Roads Western Australia from some 40 individuals or groups. The minister is also aware that the local member for Geraldton and the local governments along the haulage routes have received similar complaints, including a delegation of local residents following a public meeting in Geraldton, which attracted around 70 residents. Numerous verbal complaints have been received, but it is not possible to quantify them.
- (3) The issues and concerns raised include: the amount of heavy vehicle traffic travelling through the residential area of Tarcoola; a reduction in property values in Tarcoola; an increase in noise and dust emissions in Tarcoola; the potential conflict with pedestrian traffic in Tarcoola and with school buses in Mingenew; and property damage due to vibrations in Tarcoola and Dongara, where there are a number of heritage-listed buildings in close proximity to the highway. The specific safety concerns, of which there are four, relate to: tourist traffic on Brand Highway during the wildflower seasons; residents in Seacrest, Ocean Ridge, Tarcoola and Wandina entering and leaving Brand Highway while trucks are travelling at speed behind them; a Morawa resident who reported a near miss with a truck at the intersection of Mingenew Morawa Road and the Morawa-Mullewa road; and a deterioration of the Mingenew-Morawa road.