

GRAIN FREIGHT NETWORK REVIEW

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

- (1) Has the grain infrastructure group report, which deals with the rail freight network, Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd bin receival points and associated road networks, been completed?
- (2) If so, will the minister table the report?
- (3) If not, why not; and when will the report be released?

**Hon ADELE FARINA replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The WA grain freight network review, which was undertaken by the grain infrastructure group, is nearing finalisation. The completion of the report is dependent on the level of infrastructure funding provided. The support of the state and federal governments and industry to reinvest in the required transport infrastructure to ensure that grain stays on rail, which will protect our fragile regional road network, is critical to the fate of the regional grain rail network and our ability to save up to 1 000 kilometres of railway line closures. We are approaching the federal government for its support for and contribution to an important national export industry. Given that Western Australia's grain accounts for around half the nation's total grain exports and that the industry plays such an important role in the viability of large parts of regional Western Australia, we believe that the federal government has a role to play and, more importantly, a duty to support our regional communities.
- (2)-(3) The full report will contain confidential information provided by the private sector to allow modelling for the group's task. A summary report documenting the material considered by the grain infrastructure group is being compiled by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure. It is the government's intention to release the summary report once we have a clear idea about the level of infrastructure funding support that will be required and what this means for our pursuit of a sustainable grain freight network in Western Australia.