

WESTRAIL, ROAD CARTAGE COSTS

**41. Hon KIM CHANCE to the Minister for Transport:**

On 28 June 2000 the minister said that Westrail's ability to meet its contractual obligations was not dependent on the negotiation of a new enterprise agreement.

- (1) Can the minister explain then why Westrail is paying trucking companies to haul around 40 000 tonnes per week of grain, coal, quartz, salt and talc that Westrail has contracted to freight?
- (2) What has been the cost to Westrail for road cartage over the past month?

**Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) In undertaking its normal business operations, Westrail can haul some 40 000 tonnes of product per week by road transport mainly in road feeder services to support train operations. A very limited number of products which are exclusively hauled by trains are now temporarily, due to the outcome of the enterprise agreement negotiations, being hauled in road trucks. This contingency is necessary to meet contractual obligations with customers.
- (2) The total cost of all road haulage to support train operations and other ancillary services for the four weeks from 1 July 2000 is some \$1.7m.