

BROOME — INDUSTRIALISATION

Petition

HON PETER FOSTER (Mining and Pastoral) [2.07 pm]: I present an e-petition containing 478 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...

are concerned that the lifestyle and livelihoods of Broome residents is at risk by the rapid industrialisation of the town without any proper consultation with local residents. We ask that the WA Government acts to place a moratorium on further approvals until an independent socio economic impact assessment and cost benefit analysis of Broome becoming a logistics hub is conducted and the people of Broome have been given the opportunity to have their say. We are immediately opposed to a decision by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) taken without any public consultation. It will allow Kimberley Mineral Sands (KMS) to drive up to 99 heavy haulage mining trucks through the town of Broome day and night, 365 days per year. A trial run is scheduled for the end of this year with phase 1 production starting in March 2024. The only remaining decision stopping this is the approval by Main Roads of a traffic safety plan. We oppose this decision for the following reasons: There was little consultation with the residents of Broome when the EPA first approved KMS to export through Derby, (with only 6 trucks per day travelling through Broome) and no consultation when KMS applied to vary their approval and solely export through Broome. No comprehensive social impact assessment has been undertaken. Without doubt this change will have a significant impact on liveability in the town, while the benefits occurring will only accrue to a few. The economy of Broome heavily relies on the tourist industry. There have been no studies done on how this industry will be impacted by such a large number of trucks. The roads concerned (Broome Highway, Gubinge Road and Port Drive) are heavily used by tourists and residents heading to the beach, the races or to watch a sunset. Decisions are being made about road use despite a lack of current, accurate data on traffic volumes and user types. No count has ever been done on the busiest section of the road in the tourist season. Community members have raised concerns about road safety since the EPA approval was given. We believe the road is not fit for this new purpose—it is, in fact, an accident waiting to happen. We request that the Legislative Council urge the WA Government to: Delay the start of the KMS project until a thorough, independent socio economic impact assessment and cost benefit analysis of Broome becoming a logistics hub for the oil, gas and mining industries is conducted and the people of Broome have been given the opportunity to have their say. Particular attention should be given to the impact on the town and region's tourism industry. Ensure that Main Roads WA does not approve the use of 60 metre PBS trucks on roads through Broome township until safety issues on the roads are addressed. Require the mining company (KMS) to bear the full costs of any road improvements and road maintenance necessary to make the roads safe for road users who will be interacting with huge heavy mining trucks. Undertake a review of the Environmental Protection Act to consider the approval process for projects where amendments/variations are sought, including consideration of the need for an appeal process.

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See paper 2403.]