

ESPERANCE PORT — YILGARN ESPERANCE SOLUTION LTD

2854. Hon Ken Travers to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the State Government reached contractual closure with Yilgarn Esperance Solution Ltd (YES) regarding an upgrade of the Esperance Port?
- (2) If yes to (1), on what date was contractual closure reached?
- (3) On what date does the Government expect financial closure will occur?
- (4) If no to (1), why not?
- (5) How long does YES have to reach contractual closure and financial closure before they lose their exclusive rights to the development?

Hon Jim Chown replied:

- (1) No
- (2) Not applicable
- (3) This is currently the subject of continued negotiations with YES Consortium.
- (4)–(5) Southern Ports Authority has been monitoring the price of iron ore during negotiations and considered the effect of rapidly declining iron ore prices on the viability of the Project.

A strategy has been put in place, which has extended the time required to finalise Contractual Close, to ensure valuable Port Land remains available for alternative commercial purposes, while ensuring that the Multi User Iron Ore Facility (MUIOF) Project is given every opportunity to proceed.

Negotiations with the Preferred Proponent are therefore continuing.
