

RAILWAY (NARNGULU TO GERALDTON) BILL 2000

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Hon M.J. Criddle (Minister for Transport), and read a first time.

Second Reading

HON M.J. CRIDDLE (Agricultural - Minister for Transport) [9.58 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to authorise the construction of a railway from the railway yard at Narngulu to the port of Geraldton. The construction of the new railway line and the proposed changes to the existing railway are integral to the redesign of heavy haulage corridors for road and rail transport in and around the City of Geraldton. The centrepiece of the proposals is the development of the southern transport corridor, which is an east-west road and rail corridor to provide more efficient access to the port, to reduce heavy vehicle traffic in built-up areas and to allow removal of the existing railway from the foreshore.

The master plan developed for the southern transport corridor estimates that the rail component of the corridor will cost \$42.9m. In addition, works will be required at the port of Geraldton to enable grain trains to be unloaded without intruding along the city foreshore. Options for dealing with this are under consideration, and an amount of \$10m has been included in the master plan for works at the Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd site.

With the commissioning of the proposed new railway from Narngulu to the port of Geraldton, the existing rail infrastructure on the foreshore, which is considered an undesirable intrusion on the city landscape and a restriction on the potential tourist industry in Geraldton, will be removed.

The Acting Director General of Transport's report on construction of the railway has been tabled in the House, as required by section 18A of the Transport Co-ordination Act. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Bob Thomas.

House adjourned at 10.00 pm
