

OAKAJEE SITE, CABINET SUPPORT

174. Hon KIM CHANCE to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it correct that Cabinet has publicly announced its unanimous support for the development of a heavy industry site and a deep water port at Oakajee in the mid west?
- (2) Does the minister support the belief as expressed by Mr Brendan Flanagan, while outlining National Party policy in the *Geraldton Guardian* dated Wednesday, 26 July 2000, that industrial development in the mid west should preferably be located inland rather than at the Oakajee port and industrial site?
- (3) If so, what provision for transport infrastructure has the minister arranged to support the development of a heavy industry site inland in the mid west region as an alternative to the Oakajee site?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(3) The Government announced its support for the mid west iron and steel project and the Oakajee industrial estate and deep water port in Parliament when supporting the Iron and Steel (Mid West) Agreement Act 1997. The Act outlines the State's commitments relating to the provision of the Oakajee industrial estate and port. The industrial estate and port are planned as multi-user facilities and it is planned that Kingstream Steel Ltd will be the initial user. My view is widely known and it is that I also support the development of industry inland statewide for the benefits it brings to our rural and regional communities. The Government will provide the appropriate transport infrastructure to support the development of Oakajee and all industries as required and throughout the mid west region.