

OAKAJEE INDUSTRIAL SITE - INFRASTRUCTURE

131. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for the Mid West and Wheatbelt:

The minister will be aware that the Oakajee industrial site is now urgently required. Does he support the funding of the infrastructure - that is, road, rail, water and gas - into that industrial site immediately?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

The decisions the government will make about funding the necessary infrastructure into the Oakajee industrial park will depend upon an identified client for these services. As the honourable member will be aware, there is a great deal of interest in the establishment of the Oakajee port and the associated land around it, which is broadly described as the Oakajee industrial park, by a number of proponents. Similarly a number of proponents, sometimes inclusive of the mineral proponents - that is, the mining companies seeking to export from that port - are co-partnered with the port construction proponents, and their proposals are under way at the moment. That is a contested position with at least two, if not three, parties vying for the capacity to build, own and operate the infrastructure. When that infrastructure is known to be proceeding and the requirement exists for road, rail and gas infrastructure, there will be a trigger for the state to determine its position on supplying that. Obviously, we are very keen for that to happen and very keen to supply the infrastructure once the demand is known.