

NORTH GREENBUSHES — BUNBURY RAIL FREIGHT LINE — RESURRECTION

2412. Mr M.P. Murray to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Transport

- (1) Is the Minister aware one of the Government's election promises was to resurrect the North Greenbushes to Bunbury rail freight line?
- (2) When will work start on the North Greenbushes to Bunbury rail line project as per the Government's election promise?
- (3) Are the funds still in the budget as per the Government's election promise, and:
 - (a) if so, how much has been allocated for the project; and
 - (b) if not, have the promised funds been allocated to another source?

Mr M.J. COWPER replied:

- (1) Yes. The State Government still supports investment in the North Greenbushes to Picton rail line and associated rail and road infrastructure to see the transfer of timber logs onto rail at North Greenbushes.
Current uncertainty relating to the ownership of the timber plantation resources and continuity of supply makes investment in the rail line inappropriate at this point in time. This view is supported by the plantation timber industry.
- (2) The Government will review the issue when supply and timber resource matters become clearer.
- (3) No.
 - (a) Not applicable.
 - (b) The funds have been redirected to the grain freight network specifically the resleepering of the Avon-Albany rail line and the Transition Assistance Package and first stage of the Chester Pass Road as a matter of priority.