

SOUTHERN TRANSPORT CORRIDOR - STAGE 2

931. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

Given that Murchison Metals is about to start trucking iron ore into the Geraldton port, when can it be expected that tenders will be called for stage 2 of the southern transport corridor?

Hon ADELE FARINA replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The state government has given a commitment to stage 2 of the Geraldton southern transport corridor and Main Roads is undertaking the necessary preliminary planning and preconstruction activities to achieve this. It is anticipated that tenders will be called in 2007 to enable construction to commence early in 2008. Stage 2 follows on from the \$88 million stage 1, which was delivered by the state Labor government in September 2005 - six months ahead of schedule - and is a clear demonstration of the government's commitment to building infrastructure in the mid-west. In contrast, the Geraldton southern transport corridor did not move off the drawing board under the previous coalition government.