

PORT AUTHORITIES

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

Given that port authorities, including regional ports, are such a vital part of the trade platform of Western Australia and the nation, will the minister provide details of the total payments, including dividends and tax equivalents, made to the state for the 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 financial years from the Fremantle, Bunbury, Geraldton, Esperance, Albany, Broome, Port Hedland, Wyndham and Dampier ports?

Hon ADELE FARINA replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. I seek leave to have the answer incorporated in Hansard, as it is provided in a table format and is a bit difficult to read.

Leave granted.

The following material was incorporated -

The dividends and tax equivalents paid by port authorities in recent years are as follows:

		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
		(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)
Fremantle	Dividends	6 798	5 155	5 760
	Tax	6 645	5 641	7 442
Bunbury	Dividends	1 582	1 882	1 525
	Tax	1 604	1 859	1 517
Geraldton	Dividends	Nil	129	472
	Tax	271	Nil	Nil
Esperance	Dividends	1 235	790	1 262
	Tax	Nil	Nil	Nil
Albany	Dividends	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Tax	99	Nil	653
Broome	Dividends	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Tax	Nil	Nil	Nil
Port Hedland	Dividends	1 050	1 044	1 119
	Tax	747	846	994
Wyndham	Dividends	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Tax	Nil	Nil	Nil
Dampier	Dividends	22	150	230
	Tax	Nil	109	27
Total		20 053	17 605	21 001

The Port of Wyndham is a Government port, not a port authority, and therefore does not pay dividends or income tax equivalents. However, the agent operating the port on behalf of the Government has paid income tax of \$137,990.00, \$165,578.00 and \$151,273.00 for 2001/02 to 2003/04 respectively in relation to its past operations.
