

KALBARRI JETTY, CARRYING CAPACITY

1095. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

- (1) Will the minister confirm that the Department for Planning and Infrastructure intends to reduce the carrying capacity of the Kalbarri jetty from nine tonnes gross to two tonnes gross?
- (2) If so -
 - (a) what consultation has been carried out;
 - (b) on what information was this decision based;
 - (c) when will maintenance be carried out to allow the carrying capacity to remain at its original level and what funding is required to do so;
 - (d) is the minister aware that this will have a detrimental economic effect on the lobster industry; and
 - (e) why was the maintenance not carried out during the off-season for the lobster industry?

Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The load bearing capacity of the jetty has not changed. The width of the larger trucks that have used the jetty in recent years has meant that the neck of the jetty has been completely obstructed to the extent that persons have not been able to safely walk or gain access past the jetty. On safety grounds limitations have therefore been placed on the size of vehicle generally permitted on the jetty.
- (2) (a)-(b) The Kalbarri Maritime Advisory Committee, which includes fishing industry representation, was consulted and endorsed the recommendation to limit the size of vehicle on the jetty on the basis that product transfer to the larger trucks could easily occur on land adjacent to the jetty abutment.
 - (c) Maintenance is not the issue. The maritime advisory committee considered whether a widening of the jetty was desired but did not support that capital option, believing that management of vehicle sizes on the jetty itself was a preferable course of action.
 - (d) As I have stated, the decision to limit the size of vehicle on the jetty was based on safety grounds and was endorsed by the maritime advisory committee. This committee includes representatives of the fishing industry.
 - (e) As indicated in (c), maintenance is not the issue. However, any required major maintenance is carried out in the off-season to minimise inconvenience to the fishing industry.