

ESPERANCE LEAD POLLUTION

145. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

I have a supplementary question. Has the minister asked the Esperance Port Authority board to stand aside until an independent investigation into the scandal is complete; and, if not, why not?

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN replied:

I do not see that the board will present any impediment whatsoever to the investigation of this matter. Indeed, we have a relatively new chairman who took over in October, which is well after this unfortunate set of circumstances arose. I am very confident in his ability to drive a new agenda with the board. I hope to be in a position tomorrow to more formally announce that a very senior medical health professional with a long history and experience in environmental health matters has agreed to join the port board to strengthen it. There is no doubt that that is needed. This is an area in which the port has not performed well and we need to lift its performance.