

**House:** Legislative Assembly- QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Date:** Tuesday, 14 August 2007

**Member:** **Castrilli, Mr John; MacTiernan, Ms Alannah**

**Subject:** **GREENBUSHES TO BUNBURY RAILWAY PROJECT**

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## **GREENBUSHES TO BUNBURY RAILWAY PROJECT**

2484. Mr G.M. **Castrilli** to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

Can the Minister advise -

(a) what was the total cost of the **Greenbushes** to Bunbury railway project when announced in 2004;

(b) what is the projected cost in today's terms of the **Greenbushes** to Bunbury railway project;

(c) under the *Transport Co-ordination Act 1966* who will be responsible for paying for the upgrade of the line to make it operational;

(d) how will those costs be shared in dollar terms and percentage terms;

(e) how many daily truck movements currently transport logs/wood chips into the Bunbury Port on the South Western Highway;

(f) how many daily truck movements will transport logs/wood chips on the South Western Highway once the WA Plantation Resources (WAPRES) woodchip mill is operational;

(g) under the *Transport Co-ordination Act 1966* amendments, when a company is issued a permit to haul logs/chips by road transport from 1 December 2007, what will be the minimum and maximum permit timeframe;

(h) if the **Greenbushes** to Bunbury rail line is not operational before a company's permit for using road transport has expired, will they be refused further use of the roads;

(i) from 1 December 2007 under the *Transport Co-ordination Act 1966* what percentage of logs/chips will be forced onto rail;

(j) will there be a phasing-out period allowed from 1 December 2007 for logs/chips to be transported by road; and

(k) if the answer to question (j) is yes, from 1 December what percentage of logs/chips will travel by road?

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN replied:

(a)-(d) The Agreement for the **Greenbushes** to Bunbury railway project provides for the costs to be shared between WAPRES, WestNet Rail and the State Government. The cost of the **Greenbushes** to Bunbury railway project in 2004 was \$12.28 million with the Government's contribution capped at \$8.7 million. Based on the original proposal the estimated cost of the project is currently \$18.9 million with the Government having increased its contribution

to \$14.45 million. The scope of the project has varied since the original announcement and may further change to respond to current uncertainty relating to the security of timber log and woodchips supplies. A further \$2.23 million has been provided for feeder road works.

(e) The number of daily truck movements currently transporting logs/wood chips into the Bunbury Port on the South Western Highway is estimated at 144 trucks per day.

(f) WAPRES has advised that following the commissioning of the woodchip mill the number of trucks on South Western Highway due to their operations is expected to remain unchanged.

(g) The details have yet to be finalised however it is anticipated that the licence will be linked to the harvesting of a defined area with a maximum period of one year.

(h) No

(i)-(k) Implementation of the regulation will be managed in conjunction with the timber industry and the rail operator to coincide with the upgrading of the rail line. Government will be seeking a minimum volume of freight on rail to ensure the viability of rail.

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