

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms J Carney

to Chief Minister

Shipping Services

On many of your overseas visits to East Kalimantan, Brunei, Jakarta and Malaysia, you have sought to attract additional shipping services to Darwin:

1. Given that there are effective weekly services to and from Singapore - Darwin which are under utilized, what do you hope to achieve?

ANSWER

During the visits by both Ministers and Territory business delegations to the trading markets of our near neighbours in Indonesia and Malaysia, a number of potential trading opportunities have been identified.

In particular these include the provision of supplies and services to the booming mining communities located in and around the Eastern Indonesian city of Balikpapan, in East Kalimantan.

There is no doubt the present shipping services between Darwin and Singapore certainly provides a sound delivery of freight between the Northern Territory and Singapore, and beyond Singapore to markets such as Europe, the Middle East and the USA.

Whilst this valuable route serves to provide for the growth of the AustralAsia Trade Route, a need for more direct services between Darwin and Surabaya and other ports has also been identified to serve these markets in Eastern Indonesia, Borneo Malaysia and potentially Southern Philippines.

Having additional shipping services to Darwin creates choice, not only for Territory companies but also for those servicing southern ports through Darwin. These additional services, not only to our near neighbours but also beyond to major Asian ports, will build the capacity and competitiveness of the Darwin port on a global scale.