

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms J Carney

to Chief Minister

Trade Strategy

1. Your Government's trade strategy sets a target of 50,000 containers per year (or equivalent) by 2007 for land bridge trade across the Port of Darwin. Detail by year what has been achieved over the past four years.

ANSWER

1. It is important to note that the rail operations only commenced in January 2004 with international operations, only really commencing around June 2004. To date, FreightLink have advised they have moved in excess of 1300 containers of landbridge freight – essentially via trial shipments. A key focus of the AustralAsia Trade Route Strategy is to facilitate more regular shipping services – for eg: a direct Surabaya/Darwin service could potentially deliver in excess of 7000 import landbridge containers per annum consisting solely of paper products. A joint trial by Swires and Toll in September is targeting this market.
2. In addition, the Northern Territory Government has actively being pursuing the development of new bulk mineral exports via the East Arm Port including the provision of new bulk handling facilities. The equivalent tonnage of 600 000 tonnes per annum manganese exports to China will equate to approximately 30,000 containers per year.