1. Progress of the legislation

**Tranche 2**

Drafting of the *Ports Legislation Amendment Bill 2015*, which designed to enable ports currently regulated under the *Shipping & Pilotage Act 1967* to be regulated under the *Port Authorities Act 1999*, is nearing completion. Once the draft Bill is complete briefings will be held with port authorities and all relevant Government agencies and briefings will be offered to industry.

After the briefings are completed the draft legislation will be presented to the Minister for Transport and thereafter referred to Government for approval to print.

2. Report from the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee considered matters relating to the potential future liabilities of ports authorities arising from accepting responsibility for new ports.

The Steering Committee considered that, all things being equal, the existing administrative approach was preferred for handling liabilities which are currently unknown but which arise in the future. Under this approach if there were to be structures in a port that were unsafe and/or were of no further commercial use, the port authority and/or relevant government agency, in the first instance, would work with the private owner of the infrastructure to fix the problem at the owner’s cost. This might involve either making the structure safe or removing it all together.

**Progress Reports**

The Steering Committee noted the activities being undertaken by the three port authorities impacted by Tranche 2 (namely the Kimberley Ports Authority, the Pilbara Ports Authority and the Mid West Ports Authority). These port authorities are engaging with port facility operators to make the transition to the new governance arrangements as seamless as possible once the legislation and other matters are in place.

3. Contacts for more information

If more information is required, please contact:

- Bryant Roberts, Project Director, Major Transport Projects, Department of Transport  
  (email: bryant.roberts@transport.wa.gov.au or phone: 08 6551 6130)

Please refer all media enquiries to:

- Joanna Hynes, Media Manager, Department of Transport  
  (email: media@transport.wa.gov.au or phone: 0412 027 383)