



Media Release

Senator Alan Eggleston

Liberal Senator for Western Australia

Rudd spends big, but gives no guarantee on Oakajee

Tuesday 3rd February 2009

WA Liberal Senator Alan Eggleston has called on the Rudd Government to guarantee funding for the Oakajee Port project as part of today's \$42 billion stimulus package.

"Rudd's \$42 billion spending spree has good intentions, but the people of Western Australia need to see clear, long term benefits that will secure the State's future, not just cash-in-hand bonuses," Senator Eggleston said.

The Senator has called on the Prime Minister to formally commit to the Federal Government's contribution of \$339,000 for the Oakajee Port project, which will develop common use infrastructure such as channelling and breakwater walls.

He said the \$1.5 billion Port, which will service the needs of the mining companies in the mid-west, will be an economic stabiliser for the State's economy over the long term.

"This project is a major strategic asset, not only for Western Australia but for the Commonwealth," he said.

The State Government, which has already committed matching funding of \$339,000 to the project, needs a commitment from the Rudd Government before entering into a formal agreement with Oakajee Port and Rail.

"The intentions of Kevin Rudd's spending spree announced today are to stabilise the economy and help steer our country away from recession,"

"This project will help do just that."

Ends