



# Ellis welcomes grain rail decision

AGRICULTURAL Region MLC Brian Ellis has welcomed the Government's decision to keep grain rail lines open this season.

Mr Ellis said an interim assistance package of \$6.9 million had been allocated for deliveries on rail lines which were not economically viable.

This followed the release of the Strategic Grain Network Committee's report into the grain rail network.

The Opposition said the announcement showed the Government would take no action to keep 750km of rail line operating, resulting in 40,000 additional road

train movements each grain harvest.

However, Mr Ellis said Transport Minister Simon O'Brien had kept his promise that no rail lines would be closed in the short term.

"The assistance package will help keep grain on the rail for this year's harvest," he said.

"If farmers are genuine about maintaining their rail option, they should be encouraged to participate."

Mr Ellis said he would be looking with interest at any recommendations in the Strategic Grain Network Committee report on Geraldton rail and associated roads.