

ABORIGINAL LANDS TRUST — OOMBULGURRI

**648. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:**

- (1) When did the Balanggarra people receive their grant of native title?
- (2) Will former residents of Oombulgurri and other Kimberley Aboriginal people be permitted to visit Oombulgurri for cultural and spiritual healing and ceremony purposes after the government has demolished the houses and other buildings?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?
- (4) If yes to (2), where will people be able to stay?
- (5) What will need to happen in order for the Aboriginal Lands Trust to return to the Balanggarra traditional owners the land titles associated with the buildings and town site?

**Hon PETER COLLIER replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) On 7 August 2013.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) In 2011, cabinet made the decision to close Oombulgurri as a residential community. The remaining infrastructure will be used to support the non-residential alternative use that the traditional owners decide to pursue.
- (5) The land at Oombulgurri remains under the management of the Aboriginal Lands Trust. The transfer of management of this land would require an agreement between the state and the Balanggarra native title holders in accordance with the provisions of the commonwealth Native Title Act 1993.