

GREENOUGH REGIONAL PRISON

1061. Mr I.C. BLAYNEY to the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to the concerns of the WA Prison Officers' Union and those working at Greenough Regional Prison that the facilities' rebuilding following the riot and breakout of 2018 does not include a purpose-built female compound that is completely secure. Will the female facility be contained behind its own full security fence built to the same specifications as the perimeter fence?

Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. It is interesting that the member for Geraldton has raised that question, because he of all people knows who was involved in building the fence that was easily breached during the riot up there. It was a member of his own party, the member for Warren–Blackwood, when he was the Minister for Corrective Services. Instead of putting a proper fence in place, he put a tennis court fence in place to separate —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr F.M. LOGAN: In order to save money, he put a tennis court fence in place, which was easily breached during that shocking riot up there by those prisoners.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: It is a serious issue, members.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: It is a very serious issue. As the member for Geraldton knows, the McGowan government has committed over \$12 million to ensure that the female facility up there will be completely standalone and completely secure. We will ensure that that place is separated from the male facility, unlike what was done by their minister when the Liberals and Nationals were in government. Once again, we are going to fix up the mess that they left us.

In terms of the relationship between the Department of Justice and the Western Australian Prison Officers' Union about the security of that particular facility, there have been ongoing discussions. Only two weeks ago, both the Commissioner of Police and the secretary of the prison officers' union were in Geraldton to discuss the type of security that will be around the female facility. My understanding is that agreement has been reached on the type of security—that is, the fencing and the wall—that will be put in place between the male and female facilities. My understanding is that at this point in time, everything has now been agreed to. I want to ensure that we can actually get on and start building that new female facility. I want any negotiations to be finalised. I have told both parties, both the department of Justice and the Western Australian Prison Officers' Union, to finalise these discussions so that we can get on, issue the tender and complete that female unit in Geraldton.