

PILYARDI YARDI ABORIGINAL CORPORATION, CARNARVON

767. Hon KEN BASTON to the Minister for the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne:

Some notice of this question has been given. Given the importance of an indigenous culture centre for the Gascoyne region and its people -

- (1) What was the planned completion date for the Pilyardi Yardi Aboriginal Corporation building in Carnarvon?
- (2) What is the current status of the project?
- (3) Who will staff the centre?
- (4) What is the allocated funding for the management of the centre and from which funding source?

Hon JON FORD replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The centre was originally planned for completion in June 2005.
- (2) The architects have conducted a building check and will issue a written list of required repairs to the builders. The construction of the Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre fulfils a \$4.7 million commitment by the previous state government reached during an indigenous land use agreement, in which the Gnulli traditional owners ceded a native title claim over the Carnarvon fascine area for the development of the Northwater estate.
- (3)-(4) In conjunction with the Gascoyne Development Commission, I am facilitating a resolution between several indigenous groups in the region that have been in dispute about who should manage the centre and how the ongoing management of the centre should be funded. It should be noted that, at this stage, the government has not provided any additional funding to the project but is exploring a number of options that will reflect the outcome of negotiations within the local community.

I was there about a week ago and met with local government and the disputing parties, and we are planning a facilitated dispute mechanism. My view is that all the parties actually agreed on the provision of the place, but for some reason they have been torn asunder and we will try to bring them together again, and I am hopeful that that will be resolved within about a month.