

KIMBERLEY ASPARAGUS — DEVELOPMENT PLAN PERMITS

**703. Hon KEN BASTON to the minister representing the Minister for Lands:**

I refer to an article in *The West Australian* on 1 June 2017 regarding 683 hectares of land released by the Department of Lands at Skuthorpe, 23 kilometres east of Broome, in 2016. Can the minister please provide an update on the development status of this land release?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

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

On 9 March 2018, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage extended the deed of option to lease by six months. Kimberley Asparagus Pty Ltd requested this extension to complete the development plan, obtain all necessary statutory approvals and consult with the native title party on the location of access easements, the identification of shelterbelts and trees to be protected. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation granted a clearing permit to Kimberley Asparagus on 17 November 2017, allowing it to clear up to 165 hectares of native vegetation for horticultural purposes on lots 505 to 509 fronting Broome Road; that is stage 1. Kimberley Asparagus is in the process of seeking a licence from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation for one gegalitre of groundwater to support stage 1.