

REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES — CLOSURE

314. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the minister representing the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to the recent public reports and parliamentary debates about the proposed closure of remote Aboriginal communities.

- (1) Will the minister promote the use of royalties for regions money to support the 274 remote Aboriginal communities threatened with closure; and, if not, why not?
- (2) Will the minister consult with Aboriginal communities threatened with closure; and, if not, why not?
- (3) If consultation is to be carried out, when will this commence and what will be the terms of reference?

Hon COL HOLT replied:

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

- (1) The Minister for Regional Development supports the use of royalties for regions funds to promote reform and improved outcomes in remote Aboriginal communities, but not to simply backfill services previously funded by the commonwealth.
- (2)–(3) The minister has already had preliminary meetings in Broome on 5 March 2015 with the Alliance of WA Aboriginal Land Councils, the Kimberley Land Council and other stakeholders. A broader consultation program is being planned and will be rolled out by the state government over the course of the year.