

DIVERSION CRUISES AND HIRE — DARREN SPACKMAN

550. Hon JON FORD to the Minister for Small Business:

I refer to the Diversion Cruises and Hire business operated by Mr Darren Spackman, which is currently located at Lily Creek Lagoon in Kununurra.

- (1) What assistance can the Small Business Development Corporation offer to Mr Spackman to ensure his business can trade in Kununurra?
- (2) Has the minister ever advised Mr Spackman that the proposed site offered as an alternative location on the diversion dam—jet ski area—or any other proposed location by the local government was unsuitable for powered vessels due to safety concerns?
- (3) Will the minister give an assurance that the infrastructure that was built by Mr Spackman in good faith with an expectation to trade at Lily Creek Lagoon will not be dismantled and that he will be allowed to trade from that location?
- (4) If no to (1) and/or (3), can the minister advise if any other minister or department can assist Mr Spackman?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

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

- (1) The Small Business Development Corporation has provided extensive and comprehensive assistance to Mr Spackman since 2007. The SBDC is able to offer general business advice to Mr Spackman and has made representations to various state and local bodies on his behalf.
- (2) I can confirm that I provided that advice, via my chief of staff, to Mr Spackman when I was the Minister for Transport.
- (3) As Minister for Small Business, I cannot give an assurance that the infrastructure Mr Spackman built will not be dismantled, nor that Mr Spackman will be allowed to trade from that location. As I understand it, permission was originally granted by the Shire of Wyndham—East Kimberley for the establishment of temporary commercial boating facilities at Lily Creek. It is understood that the facilities built by Mr Spackman at the Lily Lagoon site are more than just temporary. Mr Spackman has not had a lease since 2008, and the shire has elected to remove any infrastructure on the land, pursuant to its rights. The Western Australian Ombudsman's recent investigation upholds the shire's decision.
- (4) I encourage Mr Spackman to continue to seek assistance from the SBDC.

Mr President, even though my response to this question perhaps strays well and truly outside the province of the small business portfolio, it is given in recognition of the fact that Mr Spackman has had some difficulties working through some issues, predominantly with the local shire, about the location of his business. I regret that I do not have the solutions to his problems at my fingertips, but I hope that the member can assist him in resolving his ongoing and long-running issue.