

ORD–EAST KIMBERLEY EXPANSION PROJECT — KIMBERLEY AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT

569. Hon STEPHEN DAWSON to the minister representing the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to the Kimberley Agricultural Investment Pty Ltd project earmarked for Ord stage 2, which is significantly different from the proposal announced in November last year.

- (1) What are the minimum criteria placed upon KAI in relation to the number of local workers to be employed?
- (2) What training and development requirements have been agreed for the Miriuwung and Gajerrong people?
- (3) Has the company had any discussions regarding using 457 visas to import staff to work on this project?
- (4) If the sugar mill does not go ahead, how many of the 350 construction and 400 operational jobs will now be delivered to the WA economy?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) There will be a range of employment opportunities for local people and businesses in all facets of the Ord stage 2 project. It is noted that KAI has already commenced the employment of local people to undertake the early works for farm development as well as administrative support roles.
- (2) Training and development requirements for the Miriuwung and Gajerrong people are currently being discussed as part of the development of an Aboriginal development package between KAI and MG Corporation.
- (3) I am advised that of the 19 workers currently employed by KAI, two are on work visas.
- (4) Employment opportunities on all aspects of the project will arise as the project continues to develop.