

PASTORAL LEASES — PUBLIC ACCESS ROADS

738. Hon HELEN BULLOCK to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Will the minister detail to the house the process by which a road across a pastoral lease can be declared as an open public road route that can ensure members of the public can gain access to the coastal areas for recreation and fishing?
- (2) What is the process by which a public road across a pastoral lease can be declared closed or private?
- (3) What are the routes on which ordinary members of the public can travel legally between the town of Port Hedland and the coastal areas around Munda beach and the mouth of the Turner River?
- (4) Has any action of any government department or agency been taken to effectively remove the open public road status of any section of the old Whim Creek Road?
- (5) If yes, what action, when was it taken and what section of the road does it refer to?

Hon WENDY DUNCAN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The minister has replied —

- (1) Public access across crown land can be achieved through either the local government resolving to request the Minister for Lands to consider the creation of a dedicated public road in accordance with the Land Administration Act 1997 and the Land Administration Regulations 1998, or the creation of a public access route by the Minister for Lands under the Land Administration Act.
- (2) The local government can resolve to request the Minister for Lands to close a dedicated public road permanently under the Land Administration Act.
- (3) The public can travel legally on public roads or across pastoral tracts with the approval of the pastoral lessee. There are currently no public access routes or dedicated public roads across the Mundabullangana or Boodarie pastoral leases to Munda beach or the mouth of Turner River.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) I am advised that in the past, portions of the old Whim Creek Road have been closed. The reasons for these closures are being investigated by the Department of Regional Development and Lands, and I will advise the member directly once those investigations have been completed.