

COMMUNITY HOUSING LIMITED DEVELOPMENT — KUNUNURRA

775. Hon SAMANTHA ROWE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Housing:

I ask this question on behalf of Hon Stephen Dawson, who is away on urgent parliamentary business.

I refer to the Community Housing Limited development in Kununurra.

- (1) Is the movement of the residents of Mirima reserve to Kununurra part of the move to town program?
- (2) Why are people who live only two kilometres out of Kununurra being moved into town?
- (3) What is the intention of the government for the use of Mirima reserve lands if the residents are moved off?
- (4) Does the government have the same intentions for the lands at Ranch and Ngalawa?

Hon COL HOLT replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) This is to improve the general living conditions of some Aboriginal people in remote communities and town-based reserves who choose to relocate to regional towns. This will improve access to services, education and training options with a longer term view of assisting Aboriginal families who access social and economic development opportunities. I point the member to the success of the East Kimberley transitional housing program as an example of the longer term benefits to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people by linking them to housing and employment.
- (3)–(4) The future of town-based reserves is subject to ongoing consultation with Aboriginal communities, led by the Liberal–National state government’s regional services reform unit.