

OOMBULGURRI RESIDENTS — VISITS BY DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING OFFICERS

582. Hon JON FORD to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:

At a recent meeting of Oombulgurri residents living in parks and mudflats around Wyndham, claims were made that they were visited by Department of Housing officers, escorted by police, to ask them to sign applications for alternative public housing located away from the Oombulgurri community.

- (1) Is the minister aware of these claims?
- (2) If yes to (1), are the claims true?
- (3) If yes to (1), why did the officers need the police escort?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

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

- (1) No, the Minister for Housing was not aware of the claims. However, the minister is now advised that although the Department of Housing officers did visit with former Oombulgurri residents recently, no police officers were present.
- (2)–(3) Not applicable.