

EASTERN GOLDFIELDS REGIONAL PRISON — INSPECTION REPORT

756. Hon HELEN BULLOCK to the minister representing the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to the June 2011 “Report of an Announced Inspection of Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison”, which states that the Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison is unfit for purpose, with minimum temperature control, structure concerns and staffing issues.

- (1) Does the minister concede that the Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison is placing prisoners at risk of fatality or heat-related illnesses?
- (2) Given that the department does not endorse the recommendations to install suitable climatic controls, what other management will be implemented to ensure that there is no heat-related fatality at the eastern Goldfields prison?
- (3) Will the Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison be completed by its original completion date of 2013; and, if not, what has been the delay and when will it be completed?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

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

- (1) No.
- (2) Both ceiling-mounted and pedestal fans are provided, as reported in response to the inspector’s findings. Other considerations in relation to temperature control are being examined at the local level by prison management, and include options such as having longer recreational time in the evening, thus allowing for the cooling of the prisoner accommodation. As also noted in the department’s response to the inspector’s findings, the current prison is scheduled for demolition and the new prison will have climate control.
- (3) The Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison will not be completed by its original completion date of 2013, and is now scheduled for completion between November and December 2015. The delay was to enable full assessment of the procurement analysis.