

BROOME PORT — DREDGING

**794. Hon KEN BASTON to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the answer to question without notice 749 of 1 November, which reads, “The Kimberley Ports Authority has commenced the studies and dredging is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2018, based on a suitable dredge being available”. I refer also to the long lead times that are often required in securing a dredging vessel.

- (1) Has the Kimberley Ports Authority made inquiries about the availability of a dredge in the fourth quarter of 2018?
- (2) If yes to (1), can the minister confirm the availability of a dredging vessel during this period; and, if not, why not?
- (3) Once a dredging vessel is secured for this work, how soon will the proposed date of the dredging activity be made public?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

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

- (1) Yes.
- (2) An expression of interest to identify capable dredge contractors will be released this calendar year. Following this, a formal procurement process will take place in the first half of 2018.
- (3) The proposed date for dredging can be made available to the public after the formal procurement process and environmental approvals have been completed.