

HAKEA PRISON — ASBESTOS

**300. Mr P. ABETZ to the Minister for Corrective Services:**

Hakea Prison is in my electorate. Could the minister please update the house on any remediation work being undertaken at that prison or at any other state prison on the asbestos issue?

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:**

I thank the member for Southern River for his question. The member is right; Hakea Prison is in his electorate, and I am aware that the member also has a lot of constituents who are involved in the prison community there, many of them prison officers who work there. So this is a very important issue.

I want to inform members that the Department of Corrective Services and this government take the issue of asbestos safety very seriously. It is an extremely serious issue when it comes to looking after people who work in public buildings. There are a number of buildings, both publicly and privately owned, across the state—in fact, all over the world—that are facing issues with asbestos, both stable and unstable.

In relation to block 7 at Hakea Prison, I can inform the member for Southern River that WorkSafe has issued an improvement notice to the Department of Corrective Services requiring rectification work to be completed by 14 January 2014. In the meantime, monitoring of the airspace—the space above the ceiling—has taken place and has come back with a zero result, and all interim control measures are in place to stabilise the material at Hakea.

I am pleased to advise that a preferred tenderer has been identified to conduct the works at Hakea. The cost of the contract is approximately \$2.09 million, and that contract has been awarded to Hazworx. The contractor is meeting with the leadership team at Hakea Prison this week to discuss work schedules and contractor access, and to ensure that staff and prisoners are safely isolated from the area while the remedial works are taking place.

I finalise by saying that this government is committed to addressing the issue of asbestos as it becomes —

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro, I call you to order for the first time. Wait your turn and ask a question.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The works that will be conducted at Hakea will be above and beyond the standard that is required by WorkSafe. We take the issue very seriously.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** Mr Speaker, I want to ask a supplementary question.

**The SPEAKER:** No. That is your next question. The member for Girrawheen.