

MOORANOPPIN NATURE RESERVE — WATER TANK THEFT

939. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the minister representing the Minister for Indigenous Affairs:

I refer to the Mooranoppin Nature Reserve near Kellerberrin.

- (1) Is the minister aware of the recent theft of the new water tanks from the reserve and of vandalism to the toilets on the reserve, both of which are facilities used by local Indigenous people visiting the reserve?
- (2) If yes to (1), what action has the minister taken to assist the local Indigenous community to replace the tanks and secure them against future theft?
- (3) If no to (1), will the minister undertake to investigate the matter and advise this house what action he will take as a result?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

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

- (1) The Department of Indigenous Affairs, through the metro–Wheatbelt regional office, is aware of the theft of and damage to the facilities at the Mooranoppin Nature Reserve. The reserve, vested with the Department of Environment and Conservation, is a joint management arrangement between the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Kellerberrin Aboriginal Progress Association. It is understood that Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management and NOW Employment propose a fencing training program to secure the assets at the reserve from further vandalism and theft.
- (2) The metro–Wheatbelt regional office of DIA will assist the Kellerberrin Aboriginal Progress Association to identify possible sources of funding to replace the water tanks and to repair toilet facilities and other infrastructure.
- (3) Not applicable.