

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING — HEAD MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS — ABORIGINAL
CORPORATIONS

1001. Hon STEPHEN DAWSON to the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the Department of Housing's head contractor maintenance arrangements for housing maintenance in the Pilbara and Kimberley, and reports that interstate businesses are receiving subcontracted work.

- (1) How many Aboriginal corporations have lost contracts as a result of the new contracting arrangements?
- (2) What are the names of all Aboriginal corporations for which contracts or subcontracts for housing maintenance have been cancelled or not renewed?
- (3) How many jobs have or will be lost within each community as a result of these changes?
- (4) Will the minister immediately reinstate maintenance job opportunities to all Aboriginal corporations that previously provided jobs through maintenance contracts and subcontracts; and, if not, why not?

Hon COL HOLT replied:

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

- (1) Prior to 30 June 2015, the Housing Authority had approximately 20 informal gentlemen's agreements with Aboriginal corporations and subcontractors to deliver maintenance services in remote Aboriginal communities. With the introduction of the head maintenance contract in these communities from 1 July 2015, head contractors actively engaged with the same Aboriginal corporations and subcontractors to establish ongoing arrangements and relationships to deliver maintenance works.
- (2) Any subcontract arrangements between the head maintenance contractor and the Aboriginal corporation and its subcontractors are between both parties. The Housing Authority is not privy to these arrangements.
- (3) Not all Aboriginal corporations or subcontractors are based in remote communities. Accordingly, the Housing Authority is unable to assess the impacts on jobs in remote communities. However, under its various contracts, the authority sets targets that support Aboriginal employment in construction, maintenance, and property and tenancy management. Much of the maintenance work continues to be delivered by existing organisations under these arrangements.
- (4) Under the head maintenance contract model, Aboriginal corporations and subcontractors continue to have access to contract and employment opportunities.