

RANGELANDS TENURE OPTIONS

706. Hon HELEN BULLOCK to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs:

My question is about the connections between Closing the Gap and the government's Rangelands tenure options discussion paper. The WA Department of Indigenous Affairs is named as lead agency for the bilateral plan implementing the remote service delivery national partnership agreement. One of the key points of the plan is that WA will advance reforms to land tenure in accordance with the remote Indigenous housing implementation plan to facilitate commonwealth capital investment. Can the minister explain how he has used the government's Rangelands tenure options discussion paper to advance these land tenure reforms?

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY replied:

I answer on behalf of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs. I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

The "Rangelands Tenure Options Discussion Paper", published in April 2011, identifies the Department of Regional Development and Lands as the lead agency for this program. A senior officers' group, which includes representation from the Department of Indigenous Affairs, has been formed and reports directly to the Minister for Regional Development and Lands. Its charter is to advise the WA state government on land tenure reform. The "Rangelands Tenure Options Discussion Paper" is being used as a reference tool and forms part of the deliberations. The submissions received in response to the discussion paper are currently being considered by the senior officer's group and will form part of the options that will be presented to the minister.