

KIMBERLEY - PRISONS

323. Hon KEN BASTON to the minister representing the Minister for Justice:

I refer to the budget allocation of \$11.2 million to upgrade the Broome Regional Prison and the commitment in the capital works program that planning will continue on the Kimberley custodial plan that will replace Broome Regional Prison.

- (1) Is it still intended to close the Broome prison and relocate prisoners to Derby?
- (2) If not, why not; and if so -
 - (a) when will construction of the Derby facilities commence;
 - (b) what is the anticipated completion date for the Derby facilities; and
 - (c) what is the anticipated date of closure of the Broome prison?

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Minister for Local Government and Regional Development has the call and he will answer the question in his capacity as representing the Minister for Justice.

Hon JON FORD replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Minister for Justice has provided the following answer -

- (1) The long-term plan is that a replacement prison or prisons will be built in the Kimberley to replace Broome Regional Prison. No decision on the location for the replacement prison has been made.
- (2)
 - (a) It is planned that if funding is available, construction on the replacement facility or facilities could commence in 2010.
 - (b) Construction could be completed in 2014.
 - (c) If construction occurs as planned, a review of the functions of Broome Regional Prison will be undertaken. Some areas of the facility may be retained to service the remand requirements of the Broome court.