

PASTORAL LEASES — WEST KIMBERLEY

682. Hon KEN BASTON to the minister representing the Minister for Lands:

I refer to an application lodged with the Shire of Broome by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage seeking comment on the creation of a perpetual lease over unallocated crown land lot 259 on deposited plan 220696, covering an area of 30 719 hectares in the West Kimberley.

- (1) Can the minister please advise whether any future potential native title claimants have been identified and have they been or will they be advised of this proposal; and —
 - (a) if not, why not; and
 - (b) if yes, when and by what method was this advice communicated, or will this advice be communicated, and to whom?
- (2) Has there been or will there be a process calling on eligible parties to express interest in utilising this lot; and —
 - (a) if yes, when did, or when will, this occur; and
 - (b) if not, why not?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

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

- (1) (a)–(b) Future potential native title claimants have not been identified. Should a native title claim be registered, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage will follow the relevant procedures under the Native Title Act 1993.
- (2) Yes. The Pastoral Lands Board has recommended that the land can be released for pastoral purposes via amalgamation into one or more of the adjoining pastoral leases only.
 - (a) The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage is progressing the land amalgamation.
 - (b) Not applicable.