

COMMUNITIES — MARGARET RIVER OFFICE

158. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Community Services:

I refer to the closure of the Department of Communities office in Margaret River in 2020, which was described as only a “trial”, with the department advising that the trial review would be finished by the end of January 2021, with outcomes released mid-2021.

- (1) Will this office closure be permanent?
- (2) If no to (1), when will the office reopen and what will be the opening hours when it does?
- (3) How many staff will be employed?
- (4) If yes to (1), what is the rationale for its closure, given the recent tragic suicides in the Margaret River region and the need for this valuable support service?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) The Department of Communities’ Margaret River office has been closed to the general public since 2018. Communities’ staff continue to work out of the Margaret River office as required and have a regular presence in the Margaret River community.
- (2)–(3) Not applicable.
- (4) Suicide support is primarily a service of the Department of Health and the Mental Health Commission.