

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

Hon Brad Pettitt MLC asked:

1) I refer to 2021-22 Budget Paper 2 Volume 2, pages 739 and 734, Wittenoom Townsite Closure (\$2.8 million) and ask:

- a) Is the \$1.325 million that appears in the financial year 21-22 the unexpended funds from the financial year 20-21?

Answer: Yes.

- i) If yes to (a), what was the breakdown of that proposed expenditure?

Answer: The \$1.325 million from financial year 20-21 is to be used for the acquisition of the remaining privately owned properties within the former Wittenoom townsite.

- b) If the funds earmarked for 21-22 are the same funds that were allocated for 20-21, what is the breakdown of the proposed \$1.475 million left over from the proposed Wittenoom Townsite Closure (\$2.8 million)?

Answer: The \$2.8 million figure is rounded and the correct remaining amount is \$1.522 million. This will fund the demolition of the remaining buildings, above-ground structures and subsequent construction of a containment cell for the burial of waste from the Wittenoom townsite demolition works.

- c) I note there is no proposed expenditure in the forward estimates for 22-23, 23-24 and 24-25, why not?

Answer: These funds are for the acquisition of all remaining privately owned properties within the Wittenoom townsite and for the subsequent works associated with demolition and containment only. This work is proposed to be completed by the end of June 2022.

- d) What funds have been put aside for the asbestos contamination within contaminated site ID no 11860, namely the tailings at the Wittenoom mine and Eastern Gorge mine tailings, Colonial Mine, mill and mine tailings and Yampire mine tailings?

Answer: No funds have been directly put aside for asbestos contamination within contaminated site ID no 11860.

- e) If none in (d), why not given these is acknowledged by the Government as being the most contaminated site within Australia if not the Asia-Pacific region?

Answer: The State Government is still to determine the most appropriate way forward with regards to potential remediation and/or management of asbestos contamination associated with the Wittenoom Asbestos Management Area. An appropriate strategy for this complex issue will need to be developed by the State with appropriate input from the Wittenoom Steering Committee which includes the traditional owners and other key stakeholders.

Minister's initials

