

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS FOR 2009/2010 ONGOING ESTIMATES HEARING

KIMBERLEY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

PUBLIC

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

Ministry of Regional Development

Supplementary Information No D1: Hon Philip Gardiner asked how much did it cost to prepare and publish the Dr John Taylor report, who were the funding partners and how much did they put towards the cost?

Answer

The document titled "*Ord Stage 2 and the Socioeconomic Status of Indigenous People of the East Kimberley*" was researched by Dr Taylor as part of the re-examination of the business case for Ord Stage 2 completed by Marsden Jacobs and Associates for the Department of State Development. The cost of that research work was not borne by the Kimberley Development Commission and the cost is not known to the Commission. Consistent with similar work completed by Dr Taylor and organised by the Commission in the West Kimberley, the Commission facilitated extracting the data and publishing the East Kimberley research as a separate document and subsequent release in March 2009, at an estimated total cost of \$ 4000.

It should be noted that the West Kimberley research work (also organized by the Commission) was completed utilizing funding sourced from the Commission (\$25,000), the former Department of Local Government and Regional Development (\$25,000) and Woodside (\$40,000). Those documents are available at the following web addresses:

- a) West Kimberley Labour market and population issues Part 1
<http://www.anu.edu.au/caepr/Publications/WP/2006WP35.php>
- b) West Kimberley Labour market and population issues Part 2
<http://www.anu.edu.au/caepr/Publications/WP/2008WP39.php>

Copies are tabled with this response.

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

Ministry of Regional Development

Supplementary Information No D2: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked how many houses are there in Cattle Creek, as referred to in the report (Taylor)?

Answer

The "Ord Stage 2 and the Socioeconomic status of Indigenous People in the East Kimberley Region" CAEPR Working Paper 49/2008 (the Taylor Report) Table 27 page 55 cites the percentage of houses requiring major repair or replacement at Cattle Creek. Table 27 is based upon data collected in the 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey and held by the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. FaCHSIA indicate total number of houses in Cattle Creek in 2006 to be 2.

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

Ministry of Regional Development

Supplementary Information No D3: Hon Ken Travers asked how much of the \$200 million will be recouped through land sales of the (Ord expansion)?

Answer

The State's lead agency in respect of the development and release of new Ord Irrigation Area farming land is the Department of Regional Development and Lands. The Kimberley Development Commission understands from RDL that the land sales model and the policy matters associated with the retention of any sales proceeds are yet to be determined between RDL and the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

Ministry of Regional Development

Supplementary Information No D4: Hon Ljiljana Ravlich asked what is the turnover rate of Indigenous people employed at the Argyle Diamond Mine?

Answer

Argyle Diamond Mines management have advised the following:

- a) Total Argyle employment at site as at October 2009 is 510. Of that total, 25.7% are Indigenous and 70.4% are local.
- b) The retention rates of indigenous and non-indigenous employees at the Argyle Mine are effectively the same.
- c) Current retention rates are 12% for operations staff.
- d) People who have left the business have been in the business for an average of three years.
- e) Argyle apprentices are retained at 95% through the programme.

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

Ministry of Regional Development

Supplementary Information No D5: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked with regard to the MG housing and infrastructure project can you provide a copy of the audit report to that committee?

Answer

MG HOUSING AUDIT : SUMMARY OF FINAL REPORT AND AUDIT OUTCOMES

The Final Report for the Audit of MG Housing is the property of the Yawoorroong Miriuwung Gajerrong Yirrgab Noong Dawang Aboriginal Corporation (MG Corp). Provided below is a summary of the findings in the Final Report and outcomes of the Audit. In addition to the Final Report, detailed survey sheets indicating what was surveyed, safety work completed and what work is recommended were provided to MG Corp. The intention is that this data be entered into the Department of Housing Indigenous Housing Management System database as houses come under housing management.

The primary intention of the Audit was to assess and address the immediate electrical and plumbing safety needs of MG people's dwellings. Most of the houses had been in receipt of little or no routine maintenance for quite some time, giving rise to safety concerns.

57 houses in 15 Miriuwung Gajerrong communities were examined as well as other dwellings (eg sheds) that were inhabited.

The report / survey data complements the outcomes of the Department of Housing Audit of Aboriginal houses, which was restricted to those who had already signed up to the new housing management agreements. These have been referred to previously in Ord Enhancement Scheme documentation as Phase 1 and Phase 2 Audits.

The Final Report measured Audit Outcomes against the safety and health requirements of the National Indigenous Housing Guide, and some of the key findings included:

- Many dwellings were not to Building Code of Australia and Australian Standards
- Lack of routine maintenance was a more significant factor than damage or misuse by residents
- 58% of houses surveyed had no smoke alarms fitted
- 67 % of lights tested were not ok (45% of lights in kitchens and bathrooms were not working)
- 60% of houses with fans not working
- 19% of power points were not OK
- 5% of houses had a functional shower (90 % of shower taps were not OK, 85 % of shower roses were not OK, 61 % of showers did not have functional drainage)
- 69 % of toilets did not flush OK and 45 % of toilets did not have functional drainage
- 52% of houses had inadequate /no hot water
- 19% of the houses surveyed had more than 10 people living in them
- 49 % had pest problems (and 88% had ant problems putting electrical cabling and appliances at risk)

The audit found and addressed the clear need for urgent "make safe" work to be done.

Make safe remedial electrical and plumbing work, in line with Australian health and safety standards, was conducted.