

WARMUN COMMUNITY — FLOODING

**327. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Regional Development:**

- (1) Is the minister aware that insurers are refusing to meet claims for the flooding of the Warmun Art Centre because they say the flood was caused by a rising river and was not a flash flood?
- (2) Given there are no funds to redevelop the arts centre, what action will the minister immediately take to restore this cultural and community hub?
- (3) What action has the government taken to ensure that the people of Warmun receive adequate natural disaster payments in line with others who have experienced natural disasters in the past 12 months?
- (4) When will all 300 people from Warmun be re-established in Warmun?

**Hon WENDY DUNCAN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The government, through the Warmun Aboriginal Community Re-establishment Taskforce, has been in daily discussions with the management of the Warmun Art Centre. The taskforce has recently provided a grant of \$20 000 to the art centre to assist in the clean-up and the federal government announced a similar grant last week for the centre. The cost of repairs to the art centre are currently being assessed by Building Management and Works and will be included in the submission to the WA natural disaster relief and recovery arrangements for consideration for funding. This will occur next month. The taskforce has made a commitment to replace the staff housing for the centre and this will be in place by 30 June 2011.
- (3) Residents of Warmun community are eligible for personal hardship and distress assistance under the WA natural disaster relief and recovery arrangements. Warmun evacuees have been provided with a support package that includes the provision of food and accommodation while in Kununurra, and have been given financial assistance to purchase clothing and personal requisites. This assistance will continue when residents return to the temporary accommodation facility in Warmun until they return to their own homes. Further financial assistance for the replacement of essential household goods will be coordinated to coincide with the replacement and refurbishment of Warmun homes.
- (4) The temporary accommodation facility in Warmun is scheduled to be completed by 30 June 2011. Residents will be relocated from Kununurra to Warmun immediately following completion of the accommodation facility.