

WOOROLOO AND KARNET PRISON FARMS, SECURITY FENCING

Statement by Minister for Justice

MR J.B. D’ORAZIO (Ballajura - Minister for Justice) [12.03 pm]: I update the house on the progress being made on the installation of fences at Wooroloo and Karnet Prison Farms. As members will be aware, the Gallop government gave an undertaking to put community safety first and announced the construction of security fences at Wooroloo and Karnet Prison Farms. The style of fence was determined only after testing by the specialist services branch, which determined that the most reliable fence to deter and delay escapes is a 3.6 metre Belgian mesh fence topped with 900 millimetre circular cowning. The comment from the testers was that this style of fence would thwart all but the most committed climber. The tender process for the construction of the fences closed on 31 August 2005. I am pleased to advise that the contracts have now been awarded and work has commenced at both sites. The Department of Justice has advised me that the fences will be erected at Karnet Prison Farm by 23 December 2005, and at Wooroloo Prison Farm by early January 2006. While the fences are being erected, work is under way to test the electronic security, cameras and lighting. The works for the entry building, electronic security, cameras and lighting will be the subject of a separate tender process. These fences are yet another example of this government’s commitment to restoring the balance between the safety of the community and prison staff and the needs of offenders.