

KELLERBERRIN WORK CAMP

968. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to the minister's advice to the Shire of Kellerberrin that the Kellerberrin work camp is well below standard and requires significant upgrades at an estimated cost of \$627 000.

- (1) What is the acceptable standard for work camps in Western Australia?
- (2) What work is required to bring the Kellerberrin work camp up to acceptable standard?
- (3) Who gave the estimate of \$627 000 for the upgrade; and what is the item-by-item breakdown of that costing?
- (4) Does the estimate assume any in-kind contribution by the council, local businesses or indeed the prisoners themselves?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The Minister for Corrective Services advises the following —

- (1) Historically, the Department of Corrective Services has administered work camp programs from redundant state or local government facilities in regional communities. The Kellerberrin work camp typifies this strategy by accommodating the program from the redundant Iris Litis school. This facility was previously used for the education of special needs children in Kellerberrin.

Each work camp must attain standards that are set internally, which vary from location to location and which are developed by consideration of the regulatory requirements as set out in, firstly, the WA Building Code; secondly, the health regulations; and, thirdly, disability services regulations; as well as taking security requirements into account.

At present, the Kellerberrin work camp fails to meet the department's requirements. The department and government have committed to building three new purpose-built work camp facilities in the Kimberley, eastern Goldfields and Wheatbelt regions. The design of the facilities will meet these stringent regulatory requirements.

- (2) To maintain a viable work camp in Kellerberrin that provides a beneficial prisoner rehabilitation and community reparation program, an itemised breakdown of ideal infrastructure improvements highlighted in the response to (3) is likely required.
- (3) The department provided this estimate. The figure is the total estimated cost to construct an additional six-bedroom accommodation unit to expand the work camp's muster from 12 to 16, \$340 000; to construct an internal visits area and associated infrastructure, \$80 000; for water and waste management infrastructure, \$33 000; and, for upgrades and repairs to current facilities, \$174 000.
- (4) No. This is how much the department estimates it will cost to upgrade the facility as above. Any contribution by council, local business or prisoners, and the impact those contributions may have on lowering the costs to the department, have not been factored into this estimate.