

KIMBERLEY COLLEGE OF TAFE - BROOME CAMPUS CAPITAL WORKS

643. Hon SHELLEY ARCHER to the Minister for Education and Training:

Will the minister provide details to the house of the current capital works being undertaken to the Broome campus of the Kimberley College of TAFE; the scope of works; the estimated cost; and the anticipated completion date?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank Hon Shelley Archer for the question because it is, indeed, a very good question. You would know, Mr President, what a great commitment the government has made to capital investment in the education and training portfolio. This is another example of the Carpenter government's commitment to education and training. It is a reflection also of the fact that the government is not city-centric. We make sure that we deliver education and training services throughout the state of Western Australia in the interests of all Western Australians, irrespective of where they live. This fantastic \$6 million facility will assist the people of Broome and surrounding areas to undertake a range of courses to which they have not had access in the past at the Kimberley college of TAFE. It will be a state-of-the-art facility. It has been under construction for a number of months and it is scheduled for completion in early February 2007.

I put on the public record that this facility will include a new library resource centre and an information and communication centre where local people will have access to programs such as the First Click and Second Click programs, which will enable them to become computer literate and to build on and further advance their skills. It will have a music centre for people who have a passion for and interest in music, and it will contain two general learning areas and a computer library. I am very happy to report that the existing library will be converted into staff accommodation, thereby improving the amenities for the staff who work at the facility. To illustrate to members how state-of-the-art the facility will be, I inform the house that it will house a maritime study simulator that will allow the people of the Kimberley region access to a highly sought after piece of modern equipment. The college also will have an aquaculture facility that will be added to the present aquaculture annex, expanding the scope of aquaculture studies in the Kimberley region. That is a great facility for the people of the Kimberley region for an investment of \$6 million.

I put on record my appreciation to Hon Shelley Archer because she has been a major driver of these initiatives and is continually demonstrating her commitment to the people of the Kimberley. She makes sure that she gets the ear of the minister at every opportunity. I put it on record that I cannot cross the courtyard without being bailed up by Hon Shelley Archer and being asked what is happening at the Kimberley TAFE and how the expansion plans are going. I want these opportunities online for the people of the Kimberley, and I commend the member for her interest.