

OOMBULGURRI — DEMOLITION

796. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

I refer to media reports on 12 November 2013 about the demolition of houses at Oombulgurri.

- (1) Did the minister's office provide the following information on 21 October 2013 —

The Department of Housing has advised that they will not proceed to tender until clear direction is received from DAA and DAA has since recommenced consultation with the BAC regarding Oombulgurri.

And is that information correct?

- (2) Is the Department of Housing proceeding to tender; and, if so, what "clear direction" has been received from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs?
- (3) Will the minister table the documents and/or information that provided that direction?
- (4) What form is the consultation with the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation regarding Oombulgurri taking?
- (5) What significance does the minister accord to the statement by Balangarra chair, Cissy Gore Birch Gault, that —

"So Balangarra definitely wants the site back the way it is and they don't want the houses taken down because we have plans for usage in the future of the community."

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Department of Housing is progressing tender documentation at the request of the Aboriginal Lands Trust. No further direction has been provided by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4)–(5) On 29 September 2011, I announced the closure of the former Oombulgurri Aboriginal community following a process that commenced with a report released by the State Coroner that found the community to be in a "state of crisis" following an investigation into five deaths in the community. While the ALT is not required to consult regarding the demolition program, the state government will continue to work with the Balangarra traditional owners as part of the Indigenous land use agreement process to determine a non-residential alternative use for the remaining infrastructure.