

BROOME REGIONAL PRISON

154. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the minister representing the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to the recent announcement by the minister of a new site for the Broome Regional Prison.

- (1) Did the minister consult broadly with all parties before choosing yet another site in Broome?
- (2) Noting that the Shire of Broome has published notification on its social media that it is not involved in the new site selection, does the minister now concede that he has failed to adequately consult on the matter?
- (3) Noting the various inquiries that have recommended that prisons be located close to where inmates live, the existing prison in the West Kimberley at Derby and the ongoing concerns expressed by Broome residents, will the minister reconsider his plans and plan for an East Kimberley site?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. The following information has been provided by the Minister for Corrective Services.

- (1)–(2) The announced preferred location was offered to the government by the Yawuru native title holders. Consultations were then held with the Shire of Broome before the preferred site was announced. Currently, the shire's planning scheme does not allow the prison to be built on the preferred site. The preferred site is at the far end of the Broome light industrial park, and the new prison would be approximately three kilometres away from the residents at Morrell Park. The Department of Justice is making a submission to the Shire of Broome seeking the inclusion of the preferred site in the local planning scheme. In parallel with this next stage of the process, consultation has begun with nearby stakeholders to identify and work through any concerns they may have. If the submission is unsuccessful, the department will have to return its consideration to previously identified sites, such as the two sites near the 12 Mile community that had previously been the subject of community consultation.
- (3) There is broad consensus that the current prison, parts of which date back to 1894, is no longer fit for purpose and needs replacing. In 2012, the Liberal–National government announced that the Broome Regional Prison would be closing in 2015. The same Liberal–National government then kept the prison open.