

KIMBERLEY FLOODS — FITZROY RIVER BRIDGE

**1136. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to question without notice 963 regarding the dire situation facing businesses in the East Kimberley and note the minister has failed to guarantee that heavy transport will continue to operate across the Fitzroy River throughout the coming wet season.

- (1) Is the minister risking the economic future of the East Kimberley on the hope wet season rains will not arrive early in the Fitzroy Valley catchment?
- (2) Who has Main Roads undertaken consultation with concerning options to maintain connectivity during the coming wet season, such as with the East Kimberley Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Shire of Wyndham–East Kimberley and other specific businesses in the East Kimberley, and please provide a list of who and when this consultation occurred?
- (3) What options are being considered to maintain connectivity if the river rises over the low-level crossing before the new bridge is open to traffic?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer is provided on behalf of the Minister for Transport.

- (1)–(3) Main Roads has met with the Kimberley Development Commission and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services regarding access requirements. Regular meetings continue to be held with DFES in preparation for the wet season.