

FITZROY CROSSING — RECONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURE

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

I refer to concerns raised about the level of local and Aboriginal content used in the reconstruction works occurring at Fitzroy Crossing.

- (1) What percentage of expenditure under Main Roads is being awarded to Kimberley-based corporations and other businesses?
- (2) Referring to the answer to (1), what percentage of this expenditure is with Aboriginal corporations and other Aboriginal-owned businesses?
- (3) Did Main Roads seek tenders from Fitzroy Valley-based quarries for rock being used on the abutments and level crossing?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

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

- (1)–(3) The new Fitzroy River Bridge project has established a target for a 25 per cent Aboriginal workforce, in man-hour terms—it probably should say “in person-hour terms”. Of this, 20 per cent of the workforce will be from the Fitzroy Valley. The Aboriginal business spend target for the project is 20 per cent of the project’s overall expenditure. In just three months of site activity, more than \$6 million has been committed by the Fitzroy Bridge Alliance to Aboriginal-owned businesses in the Fitzroy Valley. To date, the majority of rock has been supplied from a quarry facility near Broome due to the urgent need to re-establish connectivity across the Fitzroy River. Opportunities for Fitzroy Valley quarries will be made available in the coming months once the quantum of rock required is finalised.