

PARDELUP PRISON FARM AND ALBANY REGIONAL PRISON

953 Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY to the Minister for Justice:

The Minister for Justice visited Pardelup Prison Farm and Albany Regional Prison during January. Can the minister indicate the cost of the new facilities that he opened as well as who constructed them?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I went there to open some Aboriginal places of significance in both Albany Regional Prison and Pardelup Prison Farm, and the arts centre and chapel at Pardelup. The construction was carried out by staff and prisoners, and cost \$12 050. This is a remarkable cost. I urge members in that area who have the opportunity, at least to go to Pardelup Prison Farm - it is probably harder to go to Albany Regional Prison - to look at the places constructed by Aboriginal prisoners, particularly for their own cultural purposes - a program which has been successful in all the prisons - and the arts centre and chapel that was constructed by prisoners both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal of mud brick. It is a beautiful building. It has been beautifully designed and was constructed far more cheaply than we could have done under normal circumstances. It was supervised by a staff member, and the prisoners learnt very useful skills. It has enabled us to provide a wonderful facility at the Pardelup Prison Farm which we would not otherwise have been able to do with the money available. It has been a win all around for everybody involved. Not only is it a new facility, but also it was extremely cheap to construct and was well constructed by the prisoners supervised by staff.