

KIMBERLEY LAND COUNCIL — PARLIAMENT HOUSE PROTEST

Statement

HON NEIL THOMSON (Mining and Pastoral) [6.30 pm]: I rise to bring to the attention of the house today's protest on the steps of Parliament House by Aboriginal leaders from the Kimberley, many of whom are from my home town of Broome. I know that the sentiments expressed were sincere and from those whom I recognised in the crowd, I know that the people who were present had travelled from as far away as Nyikina Mangala, Yawuru, Miriuwung Gajerrong and Bunuba country. I spoke to many leaders after the proceedings were completed and their disappointment that no government representatives were in attendance was palpable. As an MP representing the Mining and Pastoral Region, I accepted an invitation to come forward to speak to Mr Anthony Watson, the chair of the Kimberley Land Council, who asked me to take possession of two letters, which he was seeking to give to the Premier and the minister. I have undertaken to present these letters to Parliament. I understand that often representatives in government and Parliament have different views from people across the region, but we should always be available to listen and engage, even during symbolic moments such as today. I seek leave to table both letters for consideration.

[Leave granted. See paper [284](#).]