

**FLOOD IMPACT — CARNARVON  
YOUTH CRIME — FORUMS — KIMBERLEY**

*Statement*

**HON NEIL THOMSON (Mining and Pastoral)** [5.44 pm]: I have a couple of brief issues to present today, both of which are at the request of members of my communities. Those present this morning will know that today I presented a petition on behalf of the Carnarvon Growers Association. The chair of the growers' association, Tony Vrankovich, has asked me to give a short statement. All they are asking for is some modelling. A flood in February 2021, which was small in comparison to a lot of the historical floods, resulted in a concentrated impact on a small number of growers on the Carnarvon floodplain. They have asked me to say this —

... we the people in the Kingsford and surrounding area that is in the flooding zone are distraught on the damage this small flood in February 2021 has done due to levee banks and mitigation having pushed more water at a greater velocity onto us

The growers are asking for some modelling work to be done and the concentration of those mitigation works be assessed because they are looking for solutions. I am not a hydrologist —

Several members interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! It is very difficult for the member on their feet to make a contribution when there is constant chatter in the background. If it is an interjection, it is a very difficult one to understand.

**Hon NEIL THOMSON:** I am simply representing the people of the community. I ask that the Minister for Regional Development and the Minister for Water do this work. This request is coming from the community —

**Hon Kyle McGinn** interjected.

**Hon NEIL THOMSON:** I am simply representing the 70 signatures of that petition.

My second point that I would like to present is in relation to my commitment to the community and community and crime forums. I said in this place in a previous presentation that I would present a report that reflects the outcomes of the five meetings that we had over five nights from 5 to 9 February.

**Hon Kyle McGinn** interjected.

**Hon NEIL THOMSON:** As I said earlier, this was the first time that the community had an opportunity to be broadly consulted. The government feels consultation with the community involves consultation only with peak bodies.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Please allow the member to continue his contribution without any further interjection.

**Hon NEIL THOMSON:** This government seems to think consultation involves consulting only with those peak bodies. I think it is important to consult with peak non-government and government agencies. It is important to have those exclusive meetings with experts. It is also important to hear the wider voices of the community. We have heard in this place the accusation that somehow a forum put on by the Shire of Broome was somehow a Liberal Party function. This is ridiculous. The Shire of Broome put on a function back before the election. That was a community-based forum. Here we have another community-based forum. I have a report. In these final moments, I will read in some of the comments.

Several members interjected.

**Hon NEIL THOMSON:** If people would like to listen, and listen to the community, they will discover some of the things people said. The people present in those meetings and I did our best to record faithfully the comments, including —

“There is a shared experience of loss of self-sufficiency and disempowerment.”

That is a terrible feeling. Other comments are —

“Cycle of sobering up and falling back down.”

“Policy delivered to us, not by us.”

“We need longer term funding to attract and retain good staff.”

“Don't lable kids!”

“We have a real fear that somebody will be killed.”

We have seen four police officers injured. This is not a normal situation. Other comments include —

“We will nurture any child referred to us ...”

This is from some of the representative bodies. People want to help. They want to get in and do things. Another comment is “Nobody is in charge...”. The community is feeling helpless because nobody is in charge. Another comment is “Assembly line thinking”. The hopeful component of all this is that despite everything there is still community goodwill. I believe this report, which was put together by me—I acknowledge that because I went out and listened; I took the time to go out and listen —

Several members interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**Hon NEIL THOMSON:** I took the time to go out and listen, to try to do my best to faithfully reproduce the feelings and thoughts of the community I represent. I seek leave to table this report, and I encourage everyone to take time to read it.

[Leave granted. See paper [1088](#).]

*House adjourned at 5.50 pm*

---