

STATE HOUSING — KUNUNURRA

Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the minister representing the Minister for Housing and Works:

Can the minister please advise —

- (1) How many state government houses in Kununurra are currently unoccupied?
- (2) How long have these dwellings been vacant?
- (3) What is the expected occupation date for each of these houses?
- (4) How many vacant blocks in the Kununurra town site are owned by the state government?
- (5) Are these blocks earmarked for traditional state housing and what is the time frame for development?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

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

- (1) Out of 466, 19 properties are vacant.
- (2) One has been vacant for 12 months, and the remainder have been vacant for seven months or less.
- (3) Of the 19 unoccupied properties, eight will not be occupied until final determination of the urban renewal process. Of the remaining 11 properties that are undergoing maintenance, nine will be ready for occupation in the next four weeks, and one is undergoing refurbishment, which will take six months. The remaining one is to be totally refurbished, and this work will be tendered for this financial year for occupation by government departments in the next financial year.
- (4) The housing authority has 19 sites.
- (5) Of the 19 vacant blocks, one lot is in the 2006-07 construction program and nine lots are programmed for 2007-08 and 2008-09. Five lots are being determined in consultation with the shire. There are four group sites, of which five units are estimated to be completed in 2008. Two units are estimated to be completed in June 2009, and three units are to be tendered for construction in the next financial year. The department has met with the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley about the proposed urban renewal project in Kununurra. It is anticipated that units will be demolished and land sold for possible private and public use. The shire has indicated that it is willing to support the department's plans. The department has committed to work with the Miriwung-Gajerrong corporation, as it would like to be involved in any urban regeneration project in Kununurra. The department has committed to work with the organisation as this matter develops.