STATE HOUSING, BUNBURY, SURVEY

328.   Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Housing and Works:

I refer to a social housing survey that was mailed to Bunbury public housing tenants on 30 July.

(1)   What is the purpose of the survey?

(2)   How are communities selected for the survey?

(3)   Is Bunbury the only region currently being surveyed?

(4)   Why was Busselton, for example, with over 400 public housing units, not considered in the survey?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

(1)-(4)   The question refers to the workings of a survey that has been in operation annually pursuant to the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, whereby the state housing bodies around the country provide their tenants with surveys such as that described by the member. The process by which the surveys are sent out is aimed at being statistically useful around the country. Sampling techniques were devised for the department by a consultant. I think Donovan Research conducts those surveys right around the country; it certainly conducts them in Western Australia. I do not know that Busselton has been left out of the survey, but I will check whether that is the case; and, if so, why. I would be surprised if it has been left out. I thought the sampling processes were comprehensive. This year particular attention will be paid to ensure that the data from non-metropolitan Western Australia will be even more statistically reliable by follow-up work to increase the sampling return from those areas that have had a low return in the past.

I launched the survey in the Kimberley the week before last. Particular emphasis was given to the need for it to focus on regional as well as on metropolitan Western Australia. It is an attempt on my part, as the new housing minister, to ensure that regional Western Australians have a real chance of influencing the future shape and direction of both the policy and the delivery of affordable housing across this State.