

GOVERNMENT REGIONAL OFFICERS' HOUSING

**724. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Regional Development:**

Would the Minister for Regional Development update the house on the progress of the Liberal–National government's commitment to build 400 new houses for Government Regional Officers' Housing across the state?

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS replied:**

I am happy to update the house. The job is done. There are 400 new houses for government regional officers across the length and breadth of regional Western Australia. It was a huge undertaking. It was an issue that was constantly raised when the Liberal and National Parties were in opposition. We came to government. We said that there is no point talking about it; it is time to get on with it. Now the project has been completed.

Member for Central Wheatbelt, there are 62 government officer houses in the wheatbelt. It was a \$200 million project from royalties for regions. It was one of the first major decisions the government took in 2009. The Treasurer, as the Minister for Housing at the time, agreed that it would be a major challenge to attract and retain government employees in regional areas because of the low quality and standard of housing and that something had to be done.

The 400<sup>th</sup> house completed is one of 18 units in a complex in Halls Creek. Members would remember that Halls Creek was infamous during the time the Labor Party was in office. Underinvestment had led to terrible outcomes for both the Indigenous community and government departments that were trying to respond to challenges in the Indigenous community. There were 25 people living in houses in Mardiwah Loop and there were no houses for government employees to provide services for them. I am happy to say that the government has completely rebuilt Mardiwah Loop. There are 21 new houses in Mardiwah Loop, which will help to reduce the high incidence of overcrowding there.

**Mr F.M. Logan:** Because it is all federal government funding.

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** No, it is not.

**Mr F.M. Logan:** Yes, it is!

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** No, it is not.

**Mr F.M. Logan:** Yes, it is.

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** There has been \$200 million of royalties for regions into —

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cockburn!

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** The member for Cockburn is suggesting that the 400 houses for government regional officers were funded by the federal government. That is just not true.

**Mr F.M. Logan:** You said that you rebuilt Halls Creek.

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** It is high farce for the member for Cockburn to claim credit for his disgraced federal counterparts on a project they did not do.

In Halls Creek, 14 two-bedroom and four three-bedroom units will house employees from the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, the Department of Education and the Department of Corrective Services. I imagine that the Department of Corrective Services employees are from the justice reinvestment program, which is looking to intervene in families under pressure to keep our young kids out of the justice system. That is preventive work to try to support those families.

In the Kimberley, there are 110 new GROH houses; Pilbara, 105; wheatbelt, 62; great southern, 33; goldfields–Esperance, 28; Gascoyne, 25; midwest, 19; south west, 16; and Peel, two.

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** Just two!

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** Two houses in Peel.

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** Every time, we get the least amount.

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** That must be poor advocacy by the local member, I think. The current member for Kimberley has done a great job.

Several members interjected.

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** The member for Kimberley has done a great job; she has done a better job than any members on the government side.

**Mr D.A. Templeman** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Mandurah to order for the first time.

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** Both the former and current members for Kimberley have done great jobs in advocacy, with 110 houses addressing that shortage. I do not think the member for Mandurah would —

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** Why don't you give us some crisis houses? That's what we need down there. You won't give us any of those either!

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Mandurah to order for the second time. I think he has made his point.

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** I do not think the member for Mandurah could honestly tell the Parliament that he thinks that the housing crisis in Peel is as serious as the housing crisis in the Kimberley or the Pilbara.

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** Come and have a look!

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** This has been a major project that has been completed.

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** He's been goading me, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** He is goading you? You have made your point, member for Mandurah.

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** We have completed the project. Government employees have 400 new houses that will help attract and retain vital government employees across regional Western Australia. Again, I am very happy to announce that the project to build 400 new government officer houses has been completed.