

HOUSING — AFFORDABILITY — REGIONS

294. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Housing:

I have a supplementary question. My question was actually about access to affordable housing in regional WA. Will the government immediately act to prioritise planning and development of service workers' accommodation in regional towns like Kununurra so that businesses and government services can attract and retain essential workers, as the previous Liberal–National government did with Warambie Estate in Newman and the Osprey Key Worker Village in South Hedland?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

I thank the member for the question. I note that her government in 2014–15 started an aggressive sales program of Government Regional Officers' Housing. It collected a debt of \$180 million. The previous government started it. The member's government kickstarted the process with a large aggressive sales target. We have put a pause on GROH and I am working with the Minister for Lands and the Minister for Planning on how we can accelerate further regional land availability, for example, through our \$116 million Regional Land Booster program, which has already put a number of new lots in regional markets. In fact, right now, DevelopmentWA has around 850 lots available for sale. We are using a range of mechanisms. Through our building bonus grant and the \$116 million Regional Land Booster program, we are making those serious commitments to boost housing supply across Western Australia.

The SPEAKER: Members, that concludes question time.