

NORTHERN TOWNS DEVELOPMENT FUND

15. Hon SHELLEY EATON to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the Liberal Party's election commitment to establish a \$40 million northern towns development fund.

- (1) Who will be eligible to apply for funding from the northern towns development fund?
- (2) What type of projects will be eligible for the fund?
- (3) What criteria will be applied to the fund?

Hon NORMAN MOORE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(3) The \$40 million northern towns development fund was committed to by the Liberal Party during the election campaign to overcome the lack of planning by the previous Labor government that resulted in excessive rental and housing costs in our northern towns. These high costs are not only a burden for people living in those towns, but also reduce the ability of small and medium businesses to retain staff and undermine the long-term growth of the communities required to underpin the expanding minerals and energy sectors. The Department of Local Government and Regional Development and the Department for Planning and Infrastructure are currently establishing the eligibility criteria that satisfy the unique and varying needs of local governments in the northern regions. The Liberal-National government is working together through the royalties for regions program to deliver better planning, better services and greater housing affordability to the people living in the northern towns of Western Australia.