

SHIRE OF WYNDHAM–EAST KIMBERLEY — FINANCIAL VIABILITY

2933. Ms J. Farrer to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to concerns about the ongoing financial viability of the Shire of Wyndham–East Kimberley, and ask:

- (a) is the Minister aware of these concerns amongst the community;
- (b) what consultation has taken place between the Department and the community; and
- (c) what steps have been taken to ensure that vital services such as the Wyndham Child Care Centre can continue to operate?

**Mr A.J. Simpson replied:**

- (a) Yes
- (b) Responsibility for engaging the community on local issues rests with the Shire. The Shire has been reviewing its financial position since January 2014 and has provided a number of opportunities for public involvement in these discussions at meetings and briefings.
- (c) Operation of the Wyndham Child Care Centre cost the Shire approximately \$166 000 in 2013/14. The Shire has advised the Department that the Centre has been under-utilised, catering for up to 12 children per day and on some days only five children. The Centre remains open while the Shire is working with Child Care Centre staff in seeking viable alternative models.