

CARAVAN PARKS — LONG-STAY RESIDENT SITES

395. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Commerce:

- (1) How many long-stay resident sites are there currently in Western Australian caravan parks, excluding National Lifestyle Villages?
- (2) How many long-stay resident sites in Western Australian caravan parks, again excluding National Lifestyle Villages, are currently subject to periodic leases?
- (3) How many long-stay resident sites in Western Australian caravan parks, excluding National Lifestyle Villages, are currently subject to fixed-term leases?
- (4) How many long-stay resident sites in Western Australian caravan parks, again excluding National Lifestyle Villages, are currently occupied by pensioners or welfare recipients living on periodic leases?

Hon NORMAN MOORE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)–(4) The exact figures are unknown. In its recent report following its inquiry into the provision, use and regulation of caravan parks and camping grounds in Western Australia, the Economics and Industry Standing Committee noted the findings of a 2003 report by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute that identified the longstanding difficulty in estimating the number of caravan parks in Australia and their capacity, as well as the tenure and socioeconomic status of their residents. The committee noted that it experienced similar difficulty in determining the precise number of caravan parks in the state, and found that the estimation of the number of caravan parks in Western Australia varies markedly and that their capacity and the types of sites provided are difficult to determine as there is no comprehensive and consistent data.

The committee noted that the Department of Local Government is undertaking an extensive survey of caravanning and camping facilities within all local governments, and recommended that it complete its survey. In the government's recent response to the committee's report, it noted that responses had been received from 75 per cent of local governments and that the department would follow up local governments that have not responded, with a view to the survey being completed in the first half of 2010.