

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — TOWN OF PORT HEDLAND — RATE INCREASE

4120. Mr D.A. Templeman to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to community concerns in the Town of Port Hedland regarding the recent decision by the Town of Port Hedland to call a special council meeting to propose a rate increase of up to 5 per cent, and ask:

- (a) Does your statement of November 2014 that you were working with municipalities to keep increases to a minimum still stand:
 - (i) if so, are you currently providing guidance to the Town of Port Hedland to develop strategies for reducing the cost of maintaining and replacing assets, and increasing revenue;
- (b) I understand that the recent date of valuation to establish the Gross Rental Value (GRV) was 1 August 2013 for the local governments included in the country revaluation program, with country GRV's coming into force on 1 July 2014. In respect of the Town of Port Hedland and its gross rental valuation:
 - (i) was the Town of Port Hedland included in the most recent country revaluation program;
 - (ii) what is the date in 2013 or earlier that the Valuer General visited and valued gross rental for the Town of Port Hedland; and
 - (iii) what are the recorded dates over the last 12 years when the Valuer General has conducted gross rental ratings for the Town of Port Hedland; and
- (c) Can the Town of Port Hedland request an early valuation by the Valuer General in respect of gross rental value? If so, under what circumstances?

Mr A.J. Simpson replied:

- (a) Yes
 - (i) My Department of Local Government and Communities has provided general guidance to the Town of Port Hedland. The Town will also be going through a Country Local Government funded program to assist them to assess and report on asset condition.
- (b) (i)–(iii) and (c) All valuations used by local governments for the purposes of rating are provided by the Valuer General's office of Landgate, coming under the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Lands. Questions related to valuations of rateable land in the Town of Port Hedland should therefore be directed to Minister Redman.