

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING OFFICES — RELOCATION

330. Ms S.F. McGURK to the Minister for Finance:

I refer to the relocation of the Department of Housing to Fremantle, which was announced by this government in 2012 and for which the Minister for Finance received tenders in 2013, yet the Department of Finance has still has not made a decision.

- (1) As numerous commercial and local government decisions are reliant upon the decision to relocate the Department of Housing to Fremantle, will the minister now give a final answer to this issue?
- (2) Why has it taken three years since this move was announced to make an actual decision?

Mr W.R. MARMION replied:

I thank the member for Fremantle for the question.

- (1)–(2) My department has been working for a number of years to support the possibility of a department going to Fremantle because we favour decentralisation. We are looking for value-for-money options. In recent times, the property market in Fremantle has gone down. The actual number of value-for-money options being looked at, which will be delivered to me, are looking more favourable. Because of the market going down, it is an opportunity for landlords to capitalise. My department is looking at re-evaluating three options for the possibility of some departments. The one that has been in the media is obviously the Department of Housing. There are other —

Ms S.F. McGurk: That is the one you're saying you're looking at!

The SPEAKER: Member for Fremantle, you asked a question!

Mr W.R. MARMION: We are looking at the options. Obviously, it has to be a value-for-money proposition. The taxpayers of Western Australia's money has to be considered in the equation. However, I will say to the house that we are in support of decentralisation, and Fremantle is one area we are looking at seriously.