

WORKERS' ACCOMMODATION — EXMOUTH

Statement by Minister for Lands

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Lands) [9.12 am]: I am pleased to share with the house today that the preferred proponent for the workers' accommodation facility in Exmouth has been announced and will move on to the next stage of the process. As I have said in this place many times, our government is seeking every opportunity it can to deliver more housing across Western Australia and is working with local governments to identify opportunities to release land and deliver housing, which is critical to this strategy. At the last election, our government committed to releasing suitable land for a multi-use workforce accommodation facility in Kalbarri and Exmouth and we have delivered on that promise. Recently, I announced Petra Westkey as the preferred proponent for the Kalbarri workers' accommodation, which forms part of our continued response to the cyclone. I want to thank the Shire of Northampton for the critical role it played in delivering this outcome in Kalbarri.

I am happy to announce the Perth-based Desen Group as the preferred proponent for the Exmouth site, which will proceed to the next stage of negotiations to refine its proposal, ensuring that it delivers the outcomes we need for Exmouth and represents value for money for the state. The site is close to the centre of Exmouth and will be critical in increasing accommodation options for local tourism businesses, seasonal workers and key industry workers. I also want to thank the Shire of Exmouth, which has worked with the state government to facilitate the release and rezoning of the land, ensuring that the worker accommodation development could be considered at the site.

As the Minister for Lands; Housing, the way I can support the delivery of workers' accommodation across regional Western Australia is to make crown land available, and we are doing just that. I highlight that the Shires of Exmouth and Northampton and the City of Karratha are great examples of how local governments can work with the state government to make crown land available for workers' accommodation and deliver beneficial outcomes for their communities.