

COUNTRY AGE PENSION FUEL CARD

**493. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Regional Development:**

I refer to the failure by the minister's government to index the Country Age Pension Fuel Card, as promised in the 2013 state election, and the minister's broken promise to increase the value of the fuel card from \$500 to \$550 from 1 July this year.

- (1) Why has the minister denied pensioners in the regions the increases to this program that he promised them for this year?
- (2) Will the minister now correct this broken promise so that pensioners hit hardest by this government's cost-of-living increases are not further out of pocket?

**The SPEAKER:** Minister for Corrective Services, I do not know what is so funny, but I call you to order for the first time. Did the Minister for Regional Development get that question?

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** I did not hear it; I want him to ask it again.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** I would love to ask it again! Does the minister want me to repeat the first words, because I am sure he did not understand it the first time!

I refer to the failure by the minister's government to index the Country Age Pension Fuel Card, as promised in the 2013 state election, and the minister's broken promise to increase the value of the fuel card from \$500 to \$550 from 1 July this year.

- (1) Why has the minister denied pensioners in the regions the increases to this program that he promised them for this year?
- (2) Will the minister now correct this broken promise so that pensioners hit hardest by this government's cost-of-living increases are not further out of pocket?

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS replied:**

- (1)–(2) The answer is yes. It gives me great pleasure to announce that on Monday the cabinet endorsed the increase in funding to the fuel card in regional Western Australia. We were just preparing the media statement to make that known, but it gives me the opportunity to speak about it in Parliament.

Several members interjected.

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** This was a commitment of both the Liberal Party and the National Party in the election. It is a very, very important commitment to regional Western Australians who love and cherish the Country Age Pension Fuel Card; it is also made available to disability pensioners and carers. It is a really important way of allowing them to stay mobile in regional areas. There are now around 46 000 recipients of the Country Age Pension Fuel Card, and we believe that will grow to more than 50 000 by the end of the budget forward estimates period. From 1 July next year the card will have a value of \$550; for subsequent years it will be indexed each year. This is an outstanding outcome for pensioners in regional Western Australia, and I thank the member for Collie–Preston for his outstanding question today.