

COUNTRY AGE PENSION FUEL CARD — CONTRACT

8299. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Regional Development

I refer to the 2011 tender and subsequent contract awarded to Wright Express Australia Pty Ltd for the Country Age Pension Fuel Card and Associated Services, and I ask:

- (a) how many companies submitted tenders for the contract;
- (b) where are the head office locations of these companies;
- (c) why did the Government choose to use an Eastern States-based contractor;
- (d) in correspondence to card recipients, they are advised that the life of the Country Age Pension Fuel card scheme is until 2015, however the Tenders WA information lists the final expiry date as 2017. Can the Minister explain this difference;
- (e) why does the Government continue to use the title Country Age Pension Fuel Card when it does not reflect the full range of people entitled to the card such as carers, disability support pensioners, widows and veterans who are not aged pensioners?

Mr B.J. GRYLLS replied:

- (a)–(d) The Department of Transport was responsible for the 2011 Country Age Pension Fuel Card Scheme tender process and as such the questions should be referred to the Minister for Transport.

The Department of Regional Development and Lands has budgeted over the forward estimates until 2015/16 for the Country Age Pension Fuel Card Scheme. The tender was awarded for a period of two years and six months from 2 January 2012 to 30 June 2014. There are three one-year extension options, exercisable at the absolute discretion of the Department of Transport.

- (e) The Department of Regional Development and Lands determined not to modify the name of the Country Age Pension Fuel Card Scheme when the four additional pension/benefits — Widow B Pension, Wife Pension, Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment were introduced in 2010 as recipients were familiar with the name and there was no term that could be used to capture all categories without causing confusion.