

WORKERS' ACCOMMODATION — KALBARRI

492. Ms M. BEARD to the Minister for Lands:

I have a supplementary question. Given that Petra Westkey Modular Housing has been suspended, is the minister concerned about this position in relation to the delivery of workers' accommodation in Kalbarri?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

I have a deep concern for delivering workers' accommodation across all of Western Australia. I understand acutely —

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please. The member for North West Central asked the question and the minister is responding.

Mr J.N. CAREY: I have already been on the record, just as I was saying, and said that the government is deeply aware of the need for workers' accommodation across all parts of regional Western Australia. We understand —

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

The SPEAKER: Sorry, Leader of the Opposition, you do not have the call. If you would like to ask a question, get on to your feet at the appropriate time.

Mr J.N. CAREY: I think the behaviour of the Leader of the Opposition is very telling. It is not befitting of him as the Leader of the Opposition, but it is not surprising.

We are aware of the constraints that we face in the housing market in Western Australia. Every state faces the same predicament, and we are doing everything we can, both in planning and land release, and providing funding assistance to get regional workers accommodation up in Western Australia. I note at a policy level our infrastructure fund that includes \$40 million for regional worker accommodation. As a state, we have a very clear message that we are very prepared to work with proponents and local governments to assist them to get worker accommodation up through us providing funds through a grant for headworks. I am very confident that soon, along with the Deputy Premier; Treasurer, we will be announcing the first round of those recipients. My message to regional Western Australia is that we understand the constraints and the difficulties but we are working hard with local governments through planning, through land and through our infrastructure fund to boost worker accommodation in regional Western Australia.