

GOVERNMENT REGIONAL OFFICERS' HOUSING — BROOME

289. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the availability of government worker accommodation in the Kimberley, specifically in the regional centre of Broome.

- (1) How many vacant Government Regional Officers' Housing properties exist in all suburbs of Broome presently?
- (2) How many of the houses in part (1) are available for immediate tenancy?
- (3) How many GROH houses are under construction in all suburbs of Broome?
- (4) How many existing private dwellings have been purchased for GROH housing for the financial 2021–2022 year to date?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1)–(2) GROH properties are provided to a client agency to meet their need for housing. It is not uncommon that client agencies may have allocated vacant properties to enable them to recruit and deploy suitable employees, including teachers and police. As at 28 March 2022, 33 GROH properties in Broome were vacant with confirmed incoming tenants.
- (3)–(4) Ensuring regional communities have access to critical state government workers, such as teachers and police officers, is essential. The McGowan government is investing \$200 million to the GROH program across the state, investing in spot purchases and new builds, refurbishing properties to bring stock back online and maintenance to ensure stock is maintained to a high standard. In Broome, 14 GROH properties are at various stages of planning and delivery, which includes five properties currently under construction through a build-to-lease arrangement with a local developer. No properties have been spot purchased in Broome for GROH housing in the 2021–22 financial year to date. The Minister for Housing is exploring all options to fast track the delivery of GROH housing where it is needed, including modular, timber and pre-fabricated builds, leasing opportunities and partnerships with local government.