

GOVERNMENT REGIONAL OFFICERS' HOUSING

944. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Housing:

I refer to Government Regional Officer's Housing properties in Western Australia and I ask:

- (a) What is the total number of Government Regional Officer Housing properties in Western Australia by region, and of those:
- (i) how many are currently tenanted;
 - (ii) how many are unoccupied;
 - (iii) of those unoccupied, how many are currently undergoing major or large scale maintenance; and
 - (iv) of those unoccupied what is the longest period they have been unoccupied?

Mr J.N. Carey replied:

- (a) (i)–(iv) As at 30 September 2023, there was a total of 5,168 Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) properties throughout Western Australia. The utilisation of GROH properties allocated to client agencies is determined by the agency, including who will tenant the property and when they will start their tenancy. Communities facilitates this by undertaking incoming property inspections and working with tenants as required by the client agency.

As at 30 September 2023, 97% of GROH properties are currently occupied or allocated to a client agency for their use. The remaining three percent of properties may be undergoing maintenance or refurbishment or being considered for redevelopment potential based on factors such as age, location and land size.

Over an average 12-month period, up to one third of all GROH portfolio tenancies may turnover due to normal rotation of staff in regional locations, agencies rotating staff on fixed tenure arrangements and staff leave, for example maternity leave for regional teachers or police. When the properties are vacated they undergo varying degrees of maintenance or refurbishment works before the next tenant moves into the property.

Communities routinely assesses its housing stock, including vacant GROH properties. The number of unallocated properties i.e. those that are not allocated to a client agency does not necessarily equate to the number of vacant properties, as GROH properties may be privately leased to non-government organisations, not for profits or members of the public to ensure utilisation. Where appropriate, GROH properties that no longer have client agency demand are considered for use as public housing.

The table below provides a breakdown of occupied and vacant GROH properties by region. Allocated GROH properties may be vacant at a point in time for a number of operational reasons, including the recruitment and deployment of new employees and the need for availability for employees providing relief work. Unallocated vacant properties may be new to the portfolio, undergoing major works or being considered for future use.

Region	Occupied	Vacant as at 30 September 2023	
		Allocated to a client agency	Unallocated to a client agency
South Metro	19	5	1
East Metro	2	0	0
Great Southern	238	33	5
Southwest	197	28	5
Goldfields	714	75	15
Midwest/Gascoyne	508	69	10
Pilbara	1247	120	43
West Kimberley	744	71	12
Wheatbelt	494	76	17
East Kimberley	356	51	13

