

GOVERNMENT REGIONAL OFFICERS' HOUSING — BROOME

278. 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 the regional centre of Broome.

- (1) Are there any public servants or government workers on waitlists for Government Regional Officers' Housing houses?
- (2) Have any agencies been impacted by the shortage of GROH houses; and, if yes, which agencies and has the shortage of GROH houses resulted in delays in the transfer of staff to vacant positions in Broome?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1)–(2) The Department of Communities does not operate a waitlist for GROH. Client agencies continually submit and update requests for GROH to enable them to meet forecast and changing demand as part of their workforce planning. These requests fluctuate throughout the course of a year, as business needs change and do not always indicate an immediate demand for housing. When GROH accommodation may not be immediately available, individual client agencies can make arrangements for alternative accommodation required for their employees. Ensuring that regional communities have access to critical state government workers, such as teachers and police officers, is essential. The McGowan government is investing \$200 million in the GROH program across the state, investing in spot purchases and new builds, and refurbishing properties to bring stock back online and undertaking maintenance to ensure that stock is maintained to a high standard. The Minister for Housing is exploring all options to fast-track the delivery of GROH houses where they are needed, including modular, timber and prefabricated builds, leasing opportunities and partnerships with local government.