

HOUSING — KALGOORLIE

523. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the *Business News Western Australia* article by Mark Beyer on 8 August 2022 and the comments by Kalgoorlie–Boulder Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder regarding labour shortages and over 3 000 unfilled jobs: “We can’t get the labour until we get the houses.”

- (1) In the past 12 months, why has DevelopmentWA in Kalgoorlie only released 31 new home sites at the GreenView at Karlkurla estate as at the end of 2021?
- (2) Will the minister’s current plans increase land availability to fill the immediate 300-home gap in Kalgoorlie, which is holding back jobs in that community?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

I thank the member for his question.

- (1)–(2) In the last answer that I gave, I indicated that we were advancing land supply in Kalgoorlie. In fact, we announced in the budget additional funding for the release of land in Kalgoorlie. We also provided land to Pringle Village so that it could expand its accommodation. As part of the housing diversity pipeline, we have identified land that we have put out to market. It is just by chance that I have a *Business News* magazine right here. I say that it is completely by chance because there is a big article about local government reform. It is a shocking photo of me and I am not particularly happy about it. I have a mismatched suit! However, it is really interesting that it is titled “Kalgoorlie boom faces squeeze”. Do members know what the main criticism in this article is about? It is the failure of the local government to approve a number of developments that would boost worker supply. That is the key thing. The article quotes Ms Simone de Been from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It says —

She has been particularly critical of the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder, saying she was surprised and disappointed after it voted against several residential and commercial development proposals.

“The message that is being relayed to the KBCCI by members and groups seeking to invest in the region is that it is becoming simply too hard and there appears to be a strong anti-development stance being taken by council,” ...

I want to put this on the record. We have heard distortions consistently from opposition members. They select from particular articles. We heard from the member for Vasse, who claimed there were 1 000 rough sleepers on the streets; that was wrong. We heard from the member for Cottesloe that there were more than 500; that was wrong. We heard Hon Steve Martin claim there was a doubling of housing vacancies in the system, and the ABC corrected that claim because it was not comparing the same datasets. We are hearing consistently from this opposition deliberate attempts to distort data and distort media reports. It is quite clear from this *Business News* article that the significant issue is the local government, which has not been approving worker accommodation and housing supply.