

CITY OF KARRATHA — RATES

**1126. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the minister representing the Minister for Lands:**

I refer to question without notice 979 asked in the Legislative Council on Tuesday, 15 September 2015.

- (1) What was the basis for lowering the council rates on empty mining camps that fall under the jurisdiction of the City of Karratha?
- (2) Should the same rate reduction not then be applied to property owners in Karratha who are unable to find tenants due to the slump in the housing market?

**Hon COL HOLT replied:**

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

- (1) When circumstances change to the extent that a mining camp has reached the end of its useful life, the owners can advise the Valuer-General of the change in circumstances. If the mining camp is found to have no further use and when the basis of rating is gross rental value, consideration will be given to issuing an interim valuation to reflect the changed circumstances. The rate will then be assessed on the amended gross rental value.
- (2) The City of Karratha was subject to general valuation by the Valuer-General as at a date of valuation being 1 August 2014, at which time the gross rental values of residential property in the city were reduced due to the easing demand and higher vacancy rate reflected in the market rents. Overall, the gross rental values of residential property applying from 1 July 2015 were reduced by 52 per cent to reflect this.