

DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT — SHIRE OF DERBY–WEST KIMBERLEY STAFF
ACCOMMODATION

1315. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to the provision of \$2 million to supply accommodation for Shire of Derby–West Kimberley staff members.

- (1) Has the Shire of Derby–West Kimberley been told it must use the money to build houses rather than buy, even though there are many suitable properties for sale in an oversupplied market?
- (2) If yes to (1), what is the reason for the Department of Regional Development's insistence that the Shire of Derby–West Kimberley uses the money to build rather than buy housing?
- (3) Will the minister consider altering the funding conditions in order to allow the Shire of Derby–West Kimberley to purchase existing houses; and, if not, why not?

Hon COL HOLT replied:

- (1) The Department of Regional Development has not received a formal request by the Shire of Derby–West Kimberley to use the funds allocated through the country local government fund group round to purchase rather than build houses. Through the 2012–13 CLGF funding round \$3 827 368 was approved by cabinet for the construction of dwellings in the Shire of Derby–West Kimberley, Shire of Wyndham–East Kimberley and the Shire of Halls Creek for the purpose of key worker housing through the Kimberley group of councils. The Shire of Derby–West Kimberley was to receive \$1 553 790 as its share of the fund. On 22 October the secretariat of the Kimberley zone of Western Australian Local Government Association wrote to DRD stating that the Shire of Wyndham–East Kimberley no longer required the funding for key workers. A request was made to redistribute the funds between the Shire of Derby–West Kimberley and the Shire of Halls Creek. In the request for variation the secretariat only refers to the construction of houses.
- (2) The request for this consideration has not been submitted to DRD. Such requests should be made in writing through the lead proponent so that DRD can formally respond. The lead proponent in this instance is the secretariat of the Kimberley zone of WALGA, the Shire of Broome.
- (3) The Shire of Derby–West Kimberley has not requested the funding conditions be altered.