

RENTAL HOUSING — SOUTH WEST

502. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is the minister aware of the major increases in rental prices in the south west, which are as steep as 72 per cent in Capel and 60 per cent in Collie?
- (2) What effects are these increases having on the demand for rental properties in south west towns?
- (3) What is the government doing to ease the cost of rents and housing demand throughout the south west in towns such as Capel and Collie?
- (4) Why did the government fail to anticipate the effects of such high increases in rental prices?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Department of Housing advises —

- (1)–(4) The increases are based on Australian Bureau of Statistics analysis of the 2006 and 2011 census data, which shows that rents in Western Australia generally increased by an average of 77 per cent. Between 2006 and 2011, WA experienced very high population growth. Under the Liberal–National government’s “Affordable Housing Strategy 2010–2020: Opening Doors to Affordable Housing”, 255 affordable housing dwellings have been delivered in the south west, including 17 national rental affordability scheme dwellings in Capel. The strategy represents a proactive and significant response to affordable housing pressures across the state.