

PILBARA — TWIN CITIES BLUEPRINT

1175. Hon SUE ELLERY to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the forthcoming event to announce the twin cities blueprint in the Pilbara.

- (1) Which ministers and members of Parliament will be travelling to Port Hedland to take part in the announcement proceedings?
- (2) Which public sector staff will be travelling to Port Hedland to take part in the announcement proceedings?
- (3) What is the expected cost of this event?
- (4) Will any other people attending the announcement proceedings have their costs met in full, or in part, by government?
- (5) If yes, who; and how much is this expected to cost?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

On behalf of the Leader of the House, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

The Liberal-National government was elected in part on a platform of doing more for regional Western Australia. Under the previous state government, regional Western Australia, particularly the north of the state, was neglected and ignored. Health, education and housing services suffered. In some areas of the north west, rental properties for workers and families were raised to \$2 000 or more a week as a direct result of the previous government's mismanagement and lack of interest in regional Western Australia. The Liberal-National government is proud of its record on delivering to the state outside of the metropolitan area.

Hon Sue Ellery: Are you going to answer the question at all?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: Yes, absolutely, but the Leader of the Opposition's interjections are preventing me from doing so.

The twin cities project has resulted from an election commitment made by the Liberal Party. It is being delivered in partnership with the Nationals, and, as a result, cities in the north will be vastly modernised and improved. The answer to the question is as follows —

- (1) Twelve federal and state parliamentarians have been invited. RSVPs for final numbers are not yet available. Two ministers and the Premier will also be attending. It is noted that opposition members, including the member for Pilbara, Mr Tom Stephens, MLA, will also be attending.
- (2) Nineteen public sector employees have been invited—13 on a charter plane—including ministerial staff. RSVPs for final numbers are not yet available.
- (3) Estimated cost of the event in total is \$46 800.
- (4)-(5) Skywest is providing a charter flight at cost. The cost of the charter is approximately \$14 500, which is the equivalent of \$145 per person. A number of private sector companies will attend this event. The cost of the charter will be met by government. Attraction of private investment is a key pillar to the future development of sustainable cities in the Pilbara.