

GOVERNMENT OFFICE ACCOMMODATION — JOONDALUP

1042. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Finance:

I am having a copy of the question provided to the minister as I speak.

I refer to the minister's announcement last Friday regarding the proposed government accommodation in Joondalup.

- (1) How will the minister choose the agencies that are to be moved to Joondalup?
- (2) When does the minister expect the 600 staff will commence working in Joondalup?
- (3) Why was Joondalup not successful in the government's previous expression of interest process to locate government offices outside the central business district?
- (4) What has changed that now gives the minister confidence that a government office can be located in Joondalup?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for his question.

- (1)–(4) The member is right: there was a good news story, and it was a great pleasure to go up to Joondalup the other day to announce government's decision to now go ahead to obtain expressions of interest from parties interested in engaging with government to establish a major government office accommodation presence in or around the City of Joondalup. It was welcomed by the Mayor of Joondalup and by business associations, not only in the northern suburbs but also in the Perth CBD. They thought it was a good move by the government in considering this aspect of our government office accommodation program.

It follows on from my announcement, to which the member alluded, that the headquarters function of several major agencies will be located out of the CBD, specifically the Department of Commerce will be moving to Stirling as the anchor tenant of new government office accommodation there; the Department of Housing is going down to Fremantle and —

Hon Ken Travers: Are you going to answer the specific questions I have asked?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: This is part and parcel of the member's question. It is good news and I welcome the member raising it because it gives me the opportunity to advise and update the house.

Of course, police headquarters are going to —

Hon Ken Travers: I have read the press release. I want to have the answer to my question!

The PRESIDENT: Order! I remind members that because of a previous resolution passed this week, I am obliged at 5.00 pm to do certain things. If some members have not had the opportunity to ask a question by then, I am afraid I can do nothing about it as I will have to proceed to that business. I ask members asking questions and ministers answering questions to keep that in mind.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: And, of course, the police are going down to Murdoch. In terms of how we will choose the agencies to be moved to Joondalup, I will preface my remarks because there will not be an entire agency, such as the ones I have mentioned, moving out of the Perth CBD—it will be elements of the headquarters' role of an agency or agencies, most probably in the corporate services area. I think that will be welcomed by staff members who might otherwise have to commute to Perth to work, and instead they can work near where they live. The agencies will be chosen and announced by cabinet. There has obviously been a lot of engagement with ministers and agencies prior to this, and it would be premature to identify them at this stage because we want to work through processes with those staff, rather than create a sense of uncertainty. The time frame is probably about 2017–18 at this stage. It is early days yet, but planning has been a feature of our government office accommodation program, which is delivering results.

On part (3) of the member's question, I think I indicated it is a different intention of government with this recent announcement than the previous one to locate entire departments. I think I have responded to all parts of the member's question, I thank the member for asking it.