

Division 15: Kimberley Development Commission, \$258 000 —

Ms L.L. Baker, Chairman.

Mr D.T. Redman, Minister for Regional Development.

Mr P. Rosair, Director General, Department of Regional Development.

Mrs F. Antonio, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Regional Development.

Mr A. Mann, Acting Executive Director, Regional Investment, Department of Regional Development.

Mrs J. Collard, Executive Director, Business and Social Development, Department of Regional Development.

Mr P. Gregson, Manager, Budget Services, Department of Regional Development.

Mr M. Rowe, Executive Director, Policy and Planning, Department of Regional Development.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: The Kimberley Development Commission seems to be suffering a dramatic de-escalation in funding as well. I note page 207 of budget paper No 2. In the lead-up to the last state election, the total cost of services—namely, an indication of the activity of the commission—was \$9.2 million. Now in the 2014–15 year, we see it is down to \$3.3 million. I know that part of that is due to the decline in the controlled grants and subsidies, but why are things such as the Kimberley Aboriginal community housing project extension in Kununurra not continuing? Is the minister suggesting that he has solved all the housing problems in Kununurra with one \$3 million spend in the 2013–14 year? Why is he backing off on expenditure for the Kimberley Development Commission?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I thank the member for Gosnells. I will make the point up-front that I made before; that is, the projects initiated and managed through the development commissions will affect the cash that flows through their accounts. I do not want the member to make the assumption that, just because there might be a drop off from one year to the next, that in any way will mean there is a dropping off in capacity in the Kimberley Development Commission. Indeed, he will see the details of controlled grants and subsidies and so on at the bottom of page 207. The member referred to one of the changes in some of those cash flows—namely, the Kimberley Aboriginal community housing project. He will see that those cash flows impact on the figures above, which are the global figures that change from year to year. I make that point up-front. If there is a particular line item the member for Gosnells wants further information about, I am happy to provide that by way of supplementary information. A number of the items at the bottom of the page relate to particular projects.

In no way do I make the point that we have sorted out Aboriginal community housing in the Kimberley. Of course we have not, but we have made a number of investments in communities in the north and there would not be one significant community that has not had a significant investment, including Fitzroy Crossing and Warmun, which was basically rebuilt after the impact of the floods. We also have Halls Creek, and we have seen investments in new projects in Derby. In fact, there is an allocation of \$31.7 million starting from 2013–14 for the Kimberley housing project Indigenous prosperity program, a government commitment in 2013, to fund the build of 60 new houses in Broome and Derby. The project will allow low-income Indigenous people to access appropriate affordable housing and to support them in a new housing model that builds their financial stability and independence. The pilot project is a crucial part of a long-term strategy to transform the Indigenous housing continuum in the Kimberley, to promote economic participation and to support people to move from welfare dependence to independence. I think those sorts of resources, in terms of broader royalties for regions investments, support the point the member for Gosnells is making about housing in the Kimberley. We are looking here at a statement specifically to the development commissions, which are in fact a subset of that. We also have \$71 million going into projects for the West Kimberley revitalisation plan.

If there is a specific line item that the member wants more detail about, I am happy to give that to him by way of supplementary information, if and when he identifies it to me.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: Presumably in 2013–14, the minister thought the KDC was the best means to deliver a housing project in Kununurra, but is he saying that there are other avenues for delivering that kind of work?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I am undertaking to find out and clarify for the member for Gosnells by way of supplementary information the line item “Kimberley Aboriginal Community Housing Project Extension Kununurra”, which is on the bottom of page 207 of budget paper No 2, and why there is a single figure in the estimated actual for 2013–14, and to answer the member’s question as to why that stops. I assume it will be a project that has been completed, but I will clarify that for the member.

[*Supplementary Information No B7.*]

The appropriation was recommended.