

LAND RELEASE BALLOT — SOUTH HEDLAND

274. Hon HELEN BULLOCK to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the Minister for Housing's answer to question without notice 150.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that the land release ballot of 33 lots to be held this month in South Hedland by the Department of Housing will be the first in almost 12 months?
- (2) Can the minister confirm that, including the 33 lots available this month, a total of 72 lots have been made available by ballot in the year since May 2011?
- (3) Why are so few lots available, given the unprecedented demand for housing blocks and soaring rental prices?
- (4) Has the minister met with the Minister for Regional Development in relation to this matter; and, if so, when did they meet, and has the minister urged fast-tracking the land release ballots?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for notice of the question.

The Department of Housing advises —

- (1) The anticipated land release in June will be for a minimum of 17 lots with the sales method yet to be finalised. The balance of 16 lots is to be utilised by the department for its affordable housing strategy. The last land release ballot was held in May 2011.
- (2) The ballot in May 2011 involved the release of 39 lots and was combined with the release by auction of an additional seven duplex and two group housing sites. In April 2012, a further five group housing sites, three duplex sites and one commercial site were released by auction. The release anticipated for June will involve a minimum of 17 lots with the sales method still to be finalised.
- (3) Through the South Hedland New Living project, the department has developed over 500 lots in Hedland. The department has sought additional crown land for development and has been fast-tracking the first stage of the Osprey subdivision, which has approximately 350 lots, and the Trumpet subdivision, which has approximately 170 lots. The first lots from these developments are anticipated for release in October 2012.
- (4) The minister has had a number of meetings with the Minister for Regional Development in relation to the government's housing initiatives in the Pilbara.