

PILBARA — FREE LAND

351. Hon HELEN BULLOCK to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Lands:

I refer to the front-page story of *The Weekend Australian* dated 14 May 2011 regarding free land being given to Pilbara developers.

- (1) What land has been transferred free or virtually free of cost to developers since 23 September 2008?
- (2) Where is this land located and what is its actual value?
- (3) What arrangement has the government entered into or is considering regarding handing land to Pilbara land developers free or virtually free of cost?
- (4) Which developers has the minister had discussion with regarding this matter?

Hon WENDY DUNCAN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

The comments in *The Weekend Australian* were intended to highlight the importance of achieving transformational development outcomes for the Pilbara over maximising short-term financial outcomes for the government. Significant investment is required in the Pilbara to address the underinvestment of the past. Encouraging and securing this investment to create high-quality built-form outcomes requires that the government consider a broad range of issues, including suitable land pricing. It should be noted that the following responses to the member's questions relate to private land developments and do not include lands that have been transferred to LandCorp or Aboriginal corporations.

- (1) No land has been transferred free or virtually free of cost to developers since 23 September 2008.
- (2) Not applicable, as no land has been transferred free or virtually free of cost to developers since December 2008.
- (3) The government has not entered into any arrangement to transfer land free or virtually free of cost to Pilbara developers. The cost of land is just one factor to be considered in the government's overall strategy to maximise investment and development outcomes for the Pilbara.
- (4) The minister has spoken on a number of occasions about the use of crown land as a catalyst for development, but he has not had specific discussions with any developers.