

WITTENOOM TOWN CLOSURE — RELOCATION PAYMENTS

3488. Hon Helen Bullock to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Regional Development  
I refer to the closure of the town of Wittenoom, and I ask —

- (1) What formula was used to calculate the relocation payments made to former landowners in this area?
- (2) What was the average property valuation in each of the following years —
  - (a) 2008;
  - (b) 2009; and
  - (c) 2010?

Hon WENDY DUNCAN replied:

- (1) The relocation payments were determined using the principles of Part 10 of the Land Administration Act 1997 which allow for a solatium payment of 10% (of the original offer of \$250,000). A further payment of 10% for removal expenses was added to the offer. This was offered so landowners were not financially disadvantaged by agreeing to the State's offer.
- (2) Individual inspection and valuations were not undertaken due to the Government's public health warnings. In this light only a median value of \$250,000 per residence and \$20,000 per vacant block was advised by the Valuer General. Owners of multiple houses were offered \$20,000 for each subsequent house (not primary residence). The opinion disregards the effects of contamination (the reasons for the town's closure) and lack of services as a result of closure.