

GOVERNMENT REGIONAL OFFICERS' HOUSING

1720. Hon Wilson Tucker to the minister representing the Minister for Planning; Lands; Housing; Homelessness:

I refer to my question on notice 447 dated 15 February 2022 regarding Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) vacancies, and I ask:

- (a) can the Minister please provide updated figures for allocated and unallocated GROH property stock in the following regions:
 - (i) Kimberley;
 - (ii) Pilbara;
 - (iii) Midwest/Gascoyne; and
 - (iv) Goldfields;
- (b) can the Minister please provide the number of vacant properties per region; and
- (c) can the Minister please provide the length of time each property has been vacant for, categorised by 3–6 months, 6–12 months, and 12+ months?

Hon Jackie Jarvis replied:

- (a) (i)–(iv) The table below provides a breakdown of allocated and unallocated GROH properties as at 30 September 2023. The below are point-in-time figures and it must be noted that properties are constantly moving in and out of the portfolio.

Total Allocated and Unallocated properties by Region as at 30 September 2023		
Region	Allocated to a client agency	Unallocated (ie Not allocated to a client agency)
Goldfields	783	21
Midwest/Gascoyne	556	31
Pilbara	1340	70
West Kimberley	795	32
East Kimberley	402	18

- (b)–(c) The utilisation of GROH properties allocated to client agencies is determined by the agency, including who will tenant the property and when they will start their tenancy. Communities facilitates this by undertaking incoming property inspections and working with tenants as required by the client agency.

As at 30 September 2023, 97% of the State Government's GROH properties are currently occupied or allocated to a client agency for their use. The remaining three percent of properties may be undergoing maintenance or refurbishment or being considered for redevelopment potential based on factors such as age, location and land size.

Over an average 12-month period, up to one third of all GROH portfolio tenancies may turnover due to normal rotation of staff in regional locations, agencies rotating staff on fixed tenure arrangements, and staff leave, for example maternity leave for regional teachers or police. When the properties are vacated they undergo varying degrees of maintenance or refurbishment works before the next tenant moves into the property.

Communities routinely assesses its housing stock, including vacant GROH properties. The number of unallocated properties i.e. those that are not allocated to a client agency does not necessarily equate to the number of vacant properties as GROH properties may be privately leased to non-government organisations, not for profits or members of the public to ensure utilisation. Where appropriate, GROH properties that no longer have client agency demand are considered for use as public housing.

The table below provides a breakdown of vacant GROH properties. Allocated GROH properties may be vacant at a point in time for a number of operational reasons, including the recruitment and deployment of new employees and the need for availability for employees providing relief work. Unallocated vacant properties may be new to the portfolio, undergoing major works or being considered for future use.

Total GROH Stock as at 30 September 2023					
	Goldfields	Midwest/ Gascoyne	Pilbara	West Kimberley	East Kimberley

Extract from *Hansard*
[COUNCIL — Tuesday, 28 November 2023]
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Hon Wilson Tucker; Hon Jackie Jarvis

Total GROH Stock	804	587	1,410	827	420
Allocated to a Client Agency as at 30 September 2023					
Time Vacant	Goldfields	Midwest/ Gascoyne	Pilbara	West Kimberley	East Kimberley
0–3 months	29	29	69	49	30
3–6 months	8	13	25	10	7
6–12 months	16	18	15	6	10
12+ months	22	9	11	6	4
Unallocated to a Client Agency as at 30 September 2023					
Time Vacant	Goldfields	Midwest/ Gascoyne	Pilbara	West Kimberley	East Kimberley
0–3 months	3	1	13	3	-
3–6 months	-	2	1	-	1
6–12 months	2	-	4	1	5
12+ months	10	7	25	8	7