

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Date: 14 June 2018

Subject: Utilisation of government owned dwelling in Wadeye for visiting officers

From: Leader of the Opposition, Mr Gary Higgins MLA

To: Minister for Housing and Community Development, the Hon Gerry McCarthy MLA

Agency: Department of Housing and Community Development

Number: 5-9

Question: In Wadeye, there is a government house, I will supply the lot number to the Minister over the period before he answers the question, which is not being used full time. It is nominally for visiting government officers. Why is this much needed public house dwelling being used for this purpose and not residents that are needing the houses. Would it not be better for the government to use commercial accommodation available in Wadeye?

Answer:

The Department of Housing and Community Development's Big Rivers regional office undertook an audit of the dwellings located on lot numbers 564, 388, 389, 501/1, 516, 518, 606, 634, 630, 629, 627 and 624 in Wadeye, as provided by your office.

Lots 501/1, 516, 518 and 606 are not assets belonging to the Department of Housing and Community Development.

An overview of the remaining eight lots are provided below:

- Lot 564 – this dwelling is allocated to the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education. This dwelling has previously been occupied full time, however, the organisation is currently in the process of relinquishing the dwelling.
- Lot 388 – this dwelling is allocated to the Department of Education. The dwelling is currently not utilised and the Department of Education has advised that it is currently considering the future intent for this dwelling.
- Lot 389 – this dwelling is currently vacant and has been pre-allocated to Territory Families.
- Lot 634 – this dwelling is allocated to Top End Remote Mental Health and is occupied full time.
- Lot 630 – this dwelling is allocated to the Department of Health and is occupied full time.
- Lot 629 – this dwelling is allocated to the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice. The dwelling is currently not utilised however, the agency is currently recruiting a staff member who will occupy this dwelling.
- Lot 627 – this dwelling is allocated to the Department of Health and is occupied full time.

- Lot 624 – this dwelling is allocated to the Department of Housing and Community Development and is occupied as a Visiting Officers Quarter for the Tenancy Contract Officer and Community Development Officer that services Wadeye and surrounding communities. The staff members reside in this dwelling for three weeks out of every month during routine visits to the community.