

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

C1119

**QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE**  
(Of which some notice has been given)

Wednesday, 23 September 2015

Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Housing representing the Minister for Lands.

I refer to **Question Without Notice 979** asked in the **Legislative Council** on **Wednesday, 10 September 2015**, and ask:

1. What basis is there for lowering the council rates on empty mining camps that fall under the jurisdiction of the City of Karratha?
2. Should the same rate reduction not then be applied to property owners in Karratha who are unable to find tenants due to the slump in the housing market?

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I thank the **Hon. Member** for some notice of this question.

1. Where circumstances change to the extent that a mining camp has reached the end of its useful life the owners can advise the Valuer-General of the change in circumstances. If the mining camp is found to have no further use and where the basis of rating is gross rental value, consideration will be given to issuing an interim valuation to reflect the changed circumstances. The rate will then be assessed on the amended gross rental value.
2. The City of Karratha was subject to general valuation by the Valuer-General as at a date of valuation being 1 August 2014 at which time the gross rental values of residential property in the City were reduced due to the easing demand and higher vacancy rate reflected in the market rents. Overall, the gross rental values of residential property applying from 1 July 2015 were reduced by 52% to reflect this.

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