

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL Question Without Notice

Wednesday, 7 August 2019

C768. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Regional Development

I refer to the planned buy-back scheme for properties in Port Hedland affected by dust and ask:

1. What role does the Government expect industry to play in a voluntary buy-back scheme?
2. How will the Government ensure a result that is fair to the residents of Port Hedland?
3. Given there is only one buyer and the value is suppressed due to the zoning restrictions, health warnings on title, and regulatory uncertainty for the last decade, how will the market value of the properties included the buy-back scheme be determined?
4. Does the Minister agree with the Member for Pilbara that this is industry's mess to clean up?

Answer

1. We accept that such a scheme would need to be administered by a State Government entity.
2. The buy-back would apply to owners of residential zoned properties who would be negatively affected by changes in zoning.
3. Work is being done to establish the mechanism for establishing the market value. The member will be aware the scheme being discussed would include a 35 % premium on top of the market value. It is important to understand property values in Port Hedland are underpinned by a thriving iron ore industry.
4. The McGowan Government believes that these issues cannot continue to be swept under the carpet and a comprehensive resolution is required. We certainly think that the industry must bear the brunt of the economic cost of doing this.

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Time 1987!