

POLICY TASKFORCES

1404. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the recently announced housing supply unit.

- (1) How many other policy taskforces have been established under the McGowan and Cook administrations?
- (2) What is the cost of these taskforces?
- (3) When can Western Australians expect to see this government take action on other issues affecting them, such as reducing the cost of living, fixing the broken health system and keeping repeat violent offenders behind bars?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) The housing supply unit is part of the Department of Treasury. It is not a taskforce. I note that peak bodies and representatives of the housing sector in WA have welcomed the establishment of the housing supply unit, with the CEO of the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia saying —

“A specific unit actively monitoring factors like market data, population growth and the economy will help develop responsive and proactive policy ...

“The Government has clearly recognised the effect housing supply is having on the market. It has already announced several initiatives to boost supply and we commend this additional action.”

- (3) This Labor government’s support for Western Australians is incomparable to the neglect shown by the Liberals and Nationals WA. Under this Labor government, thousands of dollars of cost-of-living support, including four household electricity credits, have been provided to households, funding for WA’s health system has increased by over 30 per cent and over 3 000 additional nurses and 1 400 additional doctors have been employed. In addition, over 400 additional police officers have been employed and the number of reported criminal offences has decreased by 12 per cent in 2022 compared with 2016.

When the Liberals and Nationals were last in government, they oversaw record increases to household fees and charges, a decrease in the number of nurses and frontline health workers in our hospitals and record levels of crime.