

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Wednesday, 17 August 2022

C776. Hon Steve Martin to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Housing

I refer to recent news articles addressing the number of vacant social housing homes in Western Australia and I ask:

1. For the end of the following years, how many social housing properties did the government own?
 1. 2016-2017;
 2. 2017-2018;
 3. 2018-2019;
 4. 2019-2020;
 5. 2020-2021;
 6. 2021-2022?
2. Of those in 1, will the Minister please provide a breakdown of how many were:
 1. Occupied; and,
 2. Vacant?
3. Of those in 2b, will the Minister please provide a breakdown of how many were
 1. Returning stock;
 2. Non-returning stock; and
 3. Other

Answer

I seek leave to table the answer to Legislative Council question without notice C776.

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Tabled Paper No. [X]

I thank the Honourable Member for some notice of this question.

1.

There were 600 properties added in 2021-2022 including through construction and spot purchase. Some of these properties are not yet reflected in this data as it often takes time for data to be transferred wholly into the Department of Communities' systems, across regional offices.

Total Social Housing stock:

As at date	Social Housing
30 June 2017	44,087
30 June 2018	43,863
30 June 2019	43,615
30 June 2020	42,932
30 June 2021	42,661
30 June 2022	43,115

2.1 - 2.2

Vacancy numbers are always a single point in time number that fluctuates for a range of reasons. Properties may be awaiting acceptance of offers from applicants, undergoing minor maintenance repairs or refurbishment prior to new occupants moving in, or undergoing major refurbishment as part of a redevelopment.

Vacancy information for community housing is unavailable as these properties are managed by external organisations.

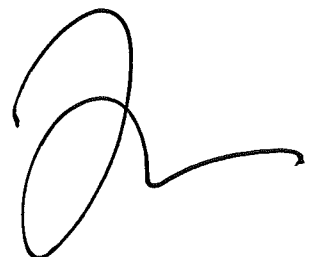
Total Public Housing stock:

As at date	Public Housing occupied or other use	Public Housing vacancies
30 June 2017	34,981	1,982
30 June 2018	34,810	1,777
30 June 2019	34,352	1,945
30 June 2020	34,169	1,444
30 June 2021	33,765	1,514
30 June 2022	33,767	1,927

Of the 1,927 properties vacant as at 30 June 2022, 1,505 of these properties are undergoing maintenance works before being occupied by applicants on the public housing waiting list. This also includes properties that have been spot purchased which may require refurbishments to be brought up to clean, safe and working standard.

3.1 - 3.3

Public Housing vacancies:



As at date	Returning stock	Not Returning stock
30 June 2017	1,402	580
30 June 2018	905	872
30 June 2019	1,040	905
30 June 2020	797	647
30 June 2021	1,033	481
30 June 2022	1,505	422

Returning Public Housing properties are vacant and undergoing maintenance, repairs or refurbishments to be made available to an applicant on the waiting list.

Not returning properties include those that have reached their end of life and may have been damaged beyond repair or have been identified for demolition or redevelopment. A proportion of non-returning housing stock is older assets that are beyond their useful life. Difficult decisions have been made on older properties as they reach the end of their useful life, such as Brownlie Towers which consisted of 300 apartments and was demolished in July 2019.

