

**HOUSING — STATEWIDE BUILDERS PANEL**

*Statement by Minister for Housing*

**MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Housing)** [9.14 am]: I rise to update the house on the Cook government's ongoing commitment to accelerate social housing delivery across Western Australia. I am pleased to announce that an additional 53 Western Australian builders have been appointed to our statewide builders panel, further expanding capacity to deliver social housing. This expansion of our statewide builders panel follows a successful expression of interest process, bringing the total number of builders on the panel to 145. We sought expressions of interest from registered builders of all sizes, ensuring that small, medium and large builders alike have the opportunity to contribute to our record \$2.6 billion investment in housing and homelessness services.

Established in late 2022, the statewide builders panel plays a pivotal role in supporting the delivery and refurbishment of social housing. Builders appointed to the panel have the opportunity to participate in refurbishment, construct-only and design-and-construct projects, providing a diverse range of expertise within the industry. One of the key objectives of our panel procurement process was to simplify the qualification process, particularly for smaller scale and regional contractors. This approach not only encourages broader participation, but also cuts red tape for builders, streamlining the process for taking on government contracts and delivering social housing dwellings across the state.

I am pleased that an additional 53 small and medium builders, including many family-owned Western Australian businesses, have joined the statewide builders panel. With more than 140 builders now pre-approved to deliver and refurbish social housing in WA, we are very much well on our way to achieving the target of 4 000 social dwellings. The statewide builders panel illustrates our government's reforms and commitment to addressing housing and homelessness challenges in Western Australia. Our record \$2.6 billion investment is creating real-world change right now, ensuring that Western Australians are provided safe, secure and sustainable housing.