

PUBLIC HOUSING — SPALDING

Statement by Minister for Housing

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Housing) [12.19 pm]: I rise today to provide a significant update on the successful completion of the second stage of the Spalding urban renewal project. This investment, totalling \$9.3 million, demonstrates our government's commitment to revitalizing Spalding in Geraldton, enhancing community connectivity and providing improved living conditions for its residents. The second stage encompassed various enhancements, including new road extensions, footpaths and refurbishments to 26 social homes. Additionally, upgrades were made to AMC Park, featuring a new waterplay feature, a flying fox, a multi-use court, a bush tucker garden, a yarnning circle, barbeques, covered picnic tables and public toilets.

The project, which is being carried out in three stages, aims to improve the amenity of the area by replacing derelict, ageing and no longer fit-for-purpose social housing properties with new road connections, which will foster better accessibility and connectivity in the suburb. Out of 48 social homes, 26 have undergone major refurbishments, with another 14 undergoing works, including three that are nearing practical completion. The Mitchell Street Community Centre building has also received upgrades, which contribute to improved public spaces within Spalding. This initiative is part of our wider \$20 million state government regional renewal package, which supports social housing revitalisation in Geraldton, Bunbury and Albany. The Cook government remains committed and dedicated to delivering for regional Western Australia through our record \$2.6 billion investment in housing and homelessness measures.

As we mark the completion of the second stage, I look forward to the third and final stage, which will see refurbishment works completed on 22 social homes. I personally thank the member for Geraldton, Lara Dalton, for her strong advocacy on behalf of the community. This revitalisation program is a direct result of her advocacy and our government's commitment to boosting housing supply, and we look forward to witnessing the continued revitalisation of Spalding.