

EAST PERTH REDEVELOPMENT

Statement by Member for Perth

MS WARNOCK (Perth) [12.50 pm]: First, I want to congratulate the Ministry of Housing and the Perth Inner City Housing Association for the launch of 19 units of social - or affordable - housing in Haig Park, East Perth last weekend. They are well designed units, and interestingly, include four apartments with artists' studios - a venture between PICHA and the Artists Foundation of WA. However, I cannot let this occasion pass without conveying a strong message on behalf of my federal colleague, Stephen Smith, and from me. The Government is still far from meeting its earlier commitment of affordable housing in the redevelopment area. We will continue to press the Government for a much higher component of affordable or low-cost housing in the inner city area.

I remind the Chamber that the East Perth Redevelopment Authority's development is a major government-funded project, which began under the previous federal Labor Government's Better Cities program. This State Government undertook to provide at least 100 units of affordable housing in the redevelopment area. Nineteen units is a start, but it is simply not enough. East Perth, like every good inner city area everywhere, needs a good social mix. There will always be people who need to live near the services provided in the inner city and they should have the opportunity to do so. I hope that the EPRA's management of the land above the Northbridge Tunnel will offer further opportunities for affordable housing, particularly when so much low-income housing was demolished during tunnel construction and simply not replaced - and, as stories from Terrace Road continue to tell us this week, continue to disappear. Stephen Smith and I undertake to continue to fight for low-income residents in the inner city.