

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION — COST

**206. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Housing:**

I have a supplementary question. Given our statewide vacancy rate sits at 1.5 per cent and is declining, what additional measures will the minister take to increase the supply of rental accommodation?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr J.N. CAREY replied:**

Member, with respect, I just went through a very clear three-point plan about how we are delivering housing. The facts are very clear: 27 000 building approvals, with 4 000 in the regions. They are being delivered and completed each month. We backed in a land program and we also, of course, have our social housing program. Today, I toured six newly completed homes. Given the heated construction market, I am on the record as saying that we are doing everything we can to accelerate delivery through timber and modular construction or by converting vacant Government Regional Officers' Housing back into the social housing system. I am seeking every opportunity as the Minister for Housing; Lands. As part of our reforms, the Minister for Planning and I announced a housing diversity pipeline. That is an innovative project. In fact, an editorial in *The West Australian* called it a visionary proposal. That proposal is unlocking lazy land and taking it to the market to not only build supply, but also get a social housing return. I think Western Australians know that this government is doing everything it can, despite the challenges of COVID and a heated market, to increase housing supply in Western Australia.