

WATERWISE PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECT

Statement by Minister for Housing

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Housing) [1.16 pm]: I rise today to inform the house of the latest successful collaboration as part of the Waterwise Public Housing Project. Initiated in 2017, the project has demonstrated its commitment to support Perth and Peel transition to become one of the world's leading waterwise cities by 2030 and has already witnessed the successful installation of water-efficient fittings at more than 800 public housing properties, saving an impressive 300 million litres of drinking water statewide.

In its latest initiative, the Water Corporation—recognising the Minister for Water—the Department of Communities and a group of green-thumbed tenants in Mosman Park have delivered a fantastic waterwise garden makeover at their public housing complex. With the installation of over 3 000 native shrubs, 10 native trees and 20 fruit trees, this makeover replaces the previously unattractive and high-maintenance garden. The newly installed waterwise plants not only beautify the space but also significantly reduce water consumption, contributing to a more sustainable living environment for our senior residents.

I want to reflect on the importance of projects like this. They are essential to giving public housing tenants not only a roof over their heads, but also the opportunity properly thrive and enjoy their tenancies. The Waterwise Public Housing Project exemplifies how much people appreciate the chance to take pride in improving their living spaces. By involving tenants in the co-design process, the garden now stands as a testament to the successful partnership between the public sector and the community. The garden's design will serve as a guiding example for future waterwise landscaping policies at public housing projects throughout the state, aiming to maximise water efficiency across all properties. I also express my appreciation to Minister for Water, Simone McGurk, for her dedication to this project. It not only promotes water efficiency but also symbolizes our dedication to creating public housing in which people can gather and form meaningful connections and support their wellbeing through interaction with nature. As Minister for Housing, I look forward to future projects like this to further enrich public housing tenancies.