

**HOUSING — URBAN INFILL**

*Statement by Minister for Planning*

**MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Planning)** [9.09 am]: I rise to inform the house of a significant milestone in the state government's commitment to boosting housing supply. More than 600 new apartments across 12 separate projects have received a major boost following the first round of funding from the \$80 million infrastructure development fund. This fund is designed to address the up-front infrastructure costs associated with connecting essential infrastructure, such as water, electricity and sewerage for housing developments.

I am pleased to announce that the first round of funding from the infrastructure development fund was successfully awarded to 12 housing projects across WA and that those projects will receive a total of \$6.53 million, which will subsidise the up-front costs of infrastructure connection, facilitating the construction of 653 new apartments. The awarded funding will support the development of medium and high-density housing in established Perth suburbs, including Burswood, Cannington, Como, Maylands, Mt Pleasant, Nedlands, North Fremantle, West Leederville, West Perth and Woodlands.

Successful applicants will benefit from a rebate of up to \$10 000 for each apartment in multi-dwelling complexes as we aim to incentivise and accelerate the construction of those housing projects. This is a balanced and responsive initiative with an equal funding allocation split of \$40 million for metro and regional housing projects. The \$40 million dedicated to infill developments in the metro area will prioritise regions such as Metronet station precincts and housing diversity pipeline sites, while the remaining \$40 million will be allocated to worker accommodation opportunities in regional areas.

The fund is part of a comprehensive set of initiatives implemented by our government to enhance infill housing. These include the \$55 million infill sewerage fund, reforms to streamline the planning system and boost housing supply and the extension and expansion of the off-the-plan transfer duty rebate. The diversity of housing developments and interest shown by applicants in both metro and regional areas is reflective of the strong response to the fund's announcement. This initial release of funding represents the beginning of a pipeline of medium and high-density housing projects, providing greater housing choice and connecting to the creation of vibrant, well-connected urban communities.

I am excited and energised to be the new Minister for Planning, and our government remains committed to boosting housing supply by using every lever possible.