

GOVERNMENT REGIONAL OFFICERS' HOUSING

Statement by Minister for Housing

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Housing) [12.15 pm]: I rise to inform the house of a significant investment by the McGowan government in Government Regional Officers' Housing to further support the delivery of essential services in regional Western Australia. Through the 2023–24 state budget, the total investment in the GROH program is now more than \$234 million as we address the housing needs of government workers and strive to meet growing demand in our regions. This substantial funding allocation will not only facilitate the expansion of the GROH stock, but also ensure the continuation of refurbishment and maintenance programs to address the ageing infrastructure. The GROH program plays a crucial role in providing accommodation for government employees stationed in regional areas, ensuring that they can effectively serve their local communities. This funding boost will enable us to prioritise the refurbishment and maintenance of existing GROH homes. This will facilitate the construction and expansion of additional GROH properties in Western Australia. As part of our commitment to easing the cost of living for Western Australians, the 2023–24 state budget places a particular emphasis on providing support in this area. In line with this focus, I am pleased to inform the house that all rents for GROH tenants will be frozen for the upcoming financial year, alleviating the financial burden on these individuals and their families. The McGowan government is acutely aware of the housing challenges faced by our communities, and this significant investment in GROH reflects our commitment to tackling these issues. By directly investing in the expansion of GROH, we are actively increasing the housing supply to meet the needs of our dedicated government workers who deliver critical services across regional Western Australia.