

**SOCIAL HOUSING — KUNUNURRA**

*Statement by Minister for Housing*

**MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Housing)** [1.08 pm]: I rise to inform the house that the Cook government has successfully completed refurbishments on a spot purchased social housing complex in Kununurra, which will make 16 one-bedroom units available for social housing in the region. The units have been repurposed to create an Aboriginal elders residential complex, which is set to make a significant impact on the lives of Aboriginal seniors in the East Kimberley community.

Last week, I took the opportunity to visit Kununurra and personally opened the \$1.8 million complex. Redevelopment initiatives like this represent more than just bricks and mortar; they embody our commitment to cultural connection, reducing isolation and providing culturally appropriate housing for our First Nations peoples. I am confident that this complex will be a great support in the East Kimberley region. As noted, the complex's acquisition was made possible through the state government's spot purchase program, which is designed to address the housing needs of Aboriginal seniors on the public housing waitlist. Kimberley-based Aboriginal building group MGC Building and Maintenance undertook the substantial refurbishment works. The result is not just housing, but a community-oriented space, featuring an indoor community room and an outdoor community meeting space.

Our government has worked closely with a reference group and engaged in a genuine partnership to create protocols for tenancing, servicing and managing the complex. This approach ensures that the complex aligns with the needs and aspirations of the Aboriginal community it serves and also supports the tenants who live there. By involving Aboriginal stakeholders in the setting-up process, we are ensuring that the complex becomes an integrated part of the community, keeping residents connected to vital services and their wider community.

Thank you to the East Kimberley regional manager of housing, Jane Murphy, and her team for their hard work and dedication. I also personally thank the reference group that was a vital part of setting up this complex. The redevelopment of this complex stands as a great example of our dedication to providing suitable social housing options for Aboriginal elders and fostering real and positive social change.