

HOMESWEST, PLANS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR

400. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to Homeswest's plans for this financial year and ask -

- (1) How many housing units will be -
 - (a) purchased;
 - (b) constructed?
- (2) What is the average cost of each housing unit to -
 - (a) purchase;
 - (b) construct?
- (3) How much land for new housing units does Homeswest intend to purchase?
- (4) What is the total contribution to the purchasing and construction of housing units from -
 - (a) the State Government;
 - (b) the Federal Government?
- (5) Does Homeswest intend to borrow any money to assist in this purchasing and construction of housing units?
- (6) What impact has the goods and services tax had on the number of housing units Homeswest can purchase or construct?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) The Ministry of Housing intends to construct or purchase a total of 1 687 units in the 2000-01 financial year, including refurbished properties and bed-sitter conversions. This program is subject to triennial review.
- (2) The costs for construction and spot purchase vary significantly across the State. The member has previously been provided with a copy of the ministry's dwelling construction cost guide for 1999-2000, and I undertake to provide the member with the updated guide for 2000-01 as soon as it is available.
- (3) The majority of the land required for the 2000-01 building program has been sourced from existing landholdings or has already been purchased.
- (4)
 - (a) A sum of \$35.6m to match commonwealth funding under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. These funds are applied to purchase and construction as well as to other expenses associated with the CSHA program. A sum of \$9.9m will be applied to infrastructure to support purchase and construction of Aboriginal remote area housing.
 - (b) A sum of \$108.4m to support the CSHA housing program. This includes other costs, including operating, debt servicing, maintenance and rates, as well as construction and purchase.

In relation to 4(a) and (b), funding sources are earmarked to particular programs, but not to particular expenditure categories within those programs.

- (5) Yes.
- (6) The Commonwealth compensated the States for the goods and services tax through the CSHA.