

SOCIAL HOUSING — DELIVERY

**831. Ms M.J. HAMMAT to the Minister for Housing:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's unprecedented investment into social housing and homelessness. Can the minister update the house on how this government's record \$2.4 billion investment into social housing and homelessness is delivering more social housing for Western Australians, as well as critical maintenance work across the existing social housing stock?

**Mr J.N. CAREY replied:**

I thank the member for her question.

This government is doing everything it can to accelerate the delivery of social housing in Western Australia. It has set an ambitious target of adding 3 300 homes, in perhaps one of the toughest construction markets that our state has ever seen. That is a \$2.4 billion program in housing and homelessness. I am really proud of all the reforms that we have been undertaking over the past few years. To date, we have added over 800 homes to the system, with another 900 under contract or construction. There has also been a lot of refurbishment and maintenance work. Since July 2020, almost 500 000 work orders have been completed, worth over \$370 million, for the maintenance and refurbishment of 19 000 properties. That includes major refurbishments of 521 properties through the social housing economic recovery package grants program.

We have reformed delivery through acceleration, through using timber-framed, prefab and modular homes, and the spot purchasing program. We are boosting the community housing sector through SHERP grants to community housing providers, many of which are in the regions, with 320 homes. We are accelerating the speed of delivery by creating new panels for small and medium-size builders, and through our modular panels. We have created the housing diversity pipeline by unlocking lazy government land to secure one in five social houses. We have brought in the \$350 million remote communities fund to deliver housing in remote communities, which the federal Liberal-National government walked away from.

We have brought in tax reforms. That includes a 100 per cent rebate on affordable product. We have changed the Keystart income limits. We have brought in a new Keystart urban infill product. We are bringing in build-to-rent to support workers' accommodation. We also have the regional land supply program, which is delivering 500 subsidised lots to the market. I have also announced a huge number of homelessness reforms. That includes 100 social homes. We also have Boorloo Bidee Mia, which is operating at 100 per cent. This is a great story of reform in the delivery of housing.

I note the opposition. All I can say is that it is a conga line of stuff-ups. Have I got that right? I thought I would go back to it because I did stuff it up before. What we have seen from the opposition have been mistruths, bizarre comments and flip-flops. Yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition said that we were not delivering any social houses. That is absolutely false. In two years, the opposition has not put forward one housing or homelessness policy. When Hon Steve Martin was asked this year, "What are you going to do about it?", he said, "I think we can look at maintenance work." I have just said that we have completed 500 000 work orders, worth over \$370 million, for maintenance and refurbishments. The opposition gets basic statistics wrong. Hon Steve Martin and the member for Vasse said that there are 1 000 rough sleepers in the city. They put out a press release that Common Ground had been scrapped. They said that Boorloo Bidee Mia was operating at 50 per cent capacity.

Yesterday, the opposition spruiked its record about Government Regional Officers' Housing investment in the wheatbelt. In fact, to paraphrase the Leader of the Opposition, she said that when the opposition came into government in 2008-09, it made a significant investment in Government Regional Officers' Housing. The Leader of the Opposition forgot to say that as a member of that cabinet, she oversaw the largest selling off of GROH homes in the wheatbelt region in any one financial year. That is a fact. That is the record of the Leader of the Opposition. She came into this place yesterday and tried to rewrite history. I will be getting the Leader of the Opposition a T-shirt that says, "I sold off the most GROH homes in the wheatbelt." It will be green and gold, and she can add it to her anti-Metronet slogans.

*Point of Order*

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Speaker —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Before I give you the call, I remind members that points of order are heard in silence and are determined by me.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** This is a second reading speech, not an answer to a question.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! That is an opinion; it is not a point of order. Minister for Housing, I ask you to wrap up your answer, please.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I think those T-shirts would sell well. In fact, when I go out to regional local governments and when I speak to local governments in the wheatbelt, they are shocked by the record of the Leader of the Opposition in that she oversaw the greatest selling off of GROH homes in any one financial year. That is her record. It cannot be denied.

The point I am making is there is a very clear difference between our side and that side. In two years, the opposition has not come up with one policy solution. Opposition members have not even had the respect and dignity, in their five years in opposition, to go to the Mission Australia homelessness lunch.

Our government is clearly demonstrating that it is accelerating the delivery of social housing through a large number of reforms to help the most vulnerable in Western Australia.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Roe with the last question for 2022.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!