

**MINISTER FOR HOUSING — UNITED KINGDOM VISIT**

*Statement by Minister for Housing*

**MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Housing)** [12.09 pm]: I rise to update the house on details of my mission to the United Kingdom from 2 December to 12 December last year. The main purpose of the mission was to investigate large-scale alternative construction and manufacturing methods and the ability to adapt them to a Western Australian context. It was a productive mission, with a number of tours and site visits at new and conversion manufactured housing sites, as well as tours of offsite manufacturing plants.

I first travelled to London, where I met with representatives from Laing O'Rourke and had the opportunity to tour a number of its project sites that are delivering regeneration and affordable housing options on a large scale via innovative offsite manufacturing technologies. I met with the UK Minister of State (Minister for Housing, Planning and Building Safety) and the City of London Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development to discuss their jurisdiction's utilisation of manufactured housing options and experience of large-scale redevelopments for social and affordable housing. I also took the opportunity to meet with the Lords Select Committee on Built Environment, which has investigated the barriers to the expansion of alternative build types, including offsite manufacturing.

It is very clear that the UK is experiencing many of the same pressures, such as construction costs and supply shortages. In London, I also met with several UK agencies including the Cabinet Office, to discuss their experience and what challenges they face working with new build technologies for housing and other applications.

I took the opportunity when in Retford, Nottinghamshire and Birmingham to tour some of Laing O'Rourke's advanced manufacturing facilities that contributed modules to the sites I had visited in London. In Retford, I toured the Centre of Excellence for Modern Construction. It is an advanced concrete products manufacturing facility that employs over 400 people. The site manufactures a range of components for use in major building and infrastructure projects, including floor slabs, pillars and a range of building facades. In Birmingham, I toured the Crown House Technologies facility. It is a 12 000 square metre manufacturing centre, employing over 1 000 staff, which prefabricates modular building services including mechanical, electrical and public health building services. In Scotland, I met with the CEO of Simon Community Scotland to discuss the success of its engagement hub and homelessness support model, which is recognised worldwide. I also took the opportunity to privately tour CCG Group Scotland's sites in Glasgow, including the Anderston regeneration project and the Willowbank conversion for student accommodation in central Glasgow.

It is clear that opportunities lie in large-scale redevelopments and that early engagement is the key to ensuring maximum efficiency in the projects and that this could be beneficial in an Australian context as well.

I table a copy of my itinerary.

[See paper 2770.]