

SOCIAL HOUSING — GRAHAM FLATS — WEST PERTH

Statement by Minister for Housing

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Housing) [9.19 am]: I rise to inform the house about the plans for the redevelopment of the Graham Flats housing complex in West Perth. This historic complex is being refurbished as part of the McGowan government's \$27.8 million investment to refurbish and upgrade several public housing complexes in Western Australia. Graham Flats, which was built in 1958 primarily for seniors, is a heritage-listed building in the postwar international style. The three-storey Hay Street complex comprises 70 one-bedroom apartments and is currently managed by the Department of Communities. The remedial refurbishment works will address identified concrete and building compliance issues and include new plumbing and upgrades to laundry facilities. The refurbishments will also involve the relocation of tenants in stages before the work commences. I note for the house that these refurbishments will extend the life of the state's public housing stock and ensure that housing remains available to the most vulnerable members of our community.

In December last year, we established a statewide housing construction and refurbishment builders panel to accelerate the state government's social housing delivery and refurbishments. This program allows us to contract smaller, local builders who are pre-approved to build and refurbish social housing. As I have said in my last two statements, this investment is part of our \$2.4 billion commitment to housing and homelessness services in Western Australia, which includes the delivery of around 3 300 social housing dwellings and maintenance work to many thousands more. Graham Flats is a significant and integrated part of the West Perth landscape and I look forward to seeing another upgrade to this important public housing asset.