

SOCIAL HOUSING — GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's record investment in social housing and homelessness services in Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this government is responding to the demand for housing, including through the use of alternative construction methods and the spot purchasing of homes?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether he is aware of any alternative proposals to increase the supply of social housing in Western Australia?

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

I thank the member for her question.

- (1)–(2) As I have said before in this house, we are acutely aware of the significant housing pressures that are facing both construction and the rental market. Of course, Western Australia is not alone; this is being experienced across Australia right now. But as a government, we take this responsibility very seriously. That is why we made a record investment, with a record injection of \$875 million, of \$2.4 billion over four years into social housing and homelessness. To date, despite the toughest construction market in our state's history, we are delivering. We have delivered 1 100 new homes to the system. That is a fact. We have just under a thousand under contract or construction. In February alone, we delivered just under a hundred new homes.

We have achieved that by trying to think outside the box about how we can accelerate the delivery of social housing. I know I have talked about it—it is one of my favourite programs—but we have done the timber frame program, as well as the modular home program. That faces constraints, but it is still delivering. Currently, we have 90 under contract or construction. It does have an impact for regional communities. I give two examples. For Collie, we have announced seven modular homes, four of which have arrived in Collie and three are due in the next month. Two modular homes have been completed in the goldfields, with another 11 to come. The modular program is having a direct effect on these regional communities. We have also brought in a spot purchasing program. We brought forward \$60 million out of our social housing fund. I am pleased to report today that since July 2021, 492 homes have been spot purchased and brought into the system. This is real reform. It is real change that is happening right now. It demonstrates our ability to accelerate the delivery of social housing.

I note that the opposition—I say this seriously—has not released one housing policy in six years. That is a fact.

**Ms L. Mettam:** You idiots! We had an election in there.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Yes.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please, members!

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I thank the member for her interjection. Please state a housing policy from the last election.

**Ms L. Mettam:** We had them.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please, members!

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I find it interesting that the member for Vasse interjects —

**Ms L. Mettam:** I find it interesting that you boast about two houses in Kalgoorlie!

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Vasse, you did not ask this question. I appreciate that the minister has responded to your interjection, but I would ask the minister to move on and complete his answer, please.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I thank the Speaker. I note that the member could not state one housing policy. When the shadow housing minister was asked, he said, "I think that we should do maintenance." That is the opposition's public statement. There has not been one policy statement. The Leader of the Liberal Party cannot name a housing policy when pressed.

It is very clear from this data that we have accelerated the delivery of social housing in Western Australia and that our modular and timber frame programs and our spot purchasing program are having an effect in boosting social housing supply.