

HOMELESSNESS — LAND SUPPLY

**559. Dr J. KRISHNAN to the Minister for Housing:**

I refer to the Cook Labor government's record \$2.6 billion investment into housing and homelessness measures.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the progress of the investment, which is delivering more housing for our state's most vulnerable?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house what steps this government is taking to unlock land to boost the housing supply pipeline in WA?

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

- (1)–(2) I want to thank the member for his question. We know that the COVID-19 pandemic radically reshaped our housing and construction markets. It created pressures across Australia, with skilled labour shortages. We have seen massive cost escalations. This has created pressures with delivery in the housing market. I am deeply proud as a state government that through our \$2.6 billion investment, and despite these significant constraints and builders telling us it is the tightest construction market that our state has ever faced, we continue to accelerate the delivery of social housing in Western Australia. I have repeatedly reported to this chamber on the range of short-term or quick measures that we have introduced to boost social housing. Whether it is flipping to timber frame programs, creating modular home programs, spot purchasing or reviewing Government Regional Officers' Housing, we are doing everything we can. To date, we have delivered 1 500 social homes to the system, with more than 1 000 under contract or construction. These are significant figures.

But, of course, we are looking to the future in terms of the pipeline of work that we need to create. We are doing that on two fronts. The first front is through longer term projects, which are higher density, affordable and social housing projects. These types of projects take considerable time in terms of planning and getting the model right but we are working through projects like Stirling Street and Pier Street. We are also looking at the land supply equation. That is why we are working hard to open up new areas of land that are critical to the future pipeline of work in Western Australia.

We recently announced that two new urban areas will open in Jandakot–Treeby and North Ballajura. This will open up a significant number of new lots. There will be around 8 500 lots overall. Added to the other planning investigation areas, there will be around 85 000 additional dwellings into the future. They will be delivered over a very long time, but the point is that we have to do the work now. We have to provide assurity in planning and land planning in Western Australia. We also, of course, have to work on further planning reform. National cabinet—every state—is now focused on streamlining to assist with housing and land development in Western Australia. There is a clear contrast between our side and the opposition. It is interesting. The opposition talks about property rights except when it relates to planning reform and cutting red tape, then there is a very stark contrast. Members opposite want to add more red tape. They want to send big housing projects away from a streamlined process, which will affect overall housing supply. We are aligned with all our state counterparts and are working with the federal government to drive planning reform in Western Australia.

As I have already mentioned, we are working on a second tranche of planning reform. At its heart, and its key focus, is boosting housing supply in Western Australia. There is a very clear choice between that side, which has no policy on housing or planning other than to wind it up in red tape, and our side, which is boosting housing supply, boosting social housing and streamlining approvals for housing in Western Australia.