

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

819. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Today the Premier made an announcement to assist renters. When can we expect an announcement to support the builders who are working every day to alleviate the housing shortage? This is urgent.

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

As I said, we meet with the housing industry all the time to continue to understand its problems and to work out what the role of government is, where appropriate, to support the housing industry and, of course, the people—its customers—who are facing delays for their homes. In some cases, people are paying mortgages and rents. We understand that these challenges exist. They are an example of the cost-of-living pressures that we have in our community at the moment, which, as I said in my earlier response to a question, is one of the things that we are most focused on. Because we have kept our economy and our finances strong, we are in a position to provide support where it is needed. We will continue to work with the housing industry to understand its challenges and to assist wherever possible.