

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION — APARTMENTS

**404. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Housing:**

I have a supplementary question. Given the long lead time for new dwellings, can more be done to bring unoccupied properties to the market?

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

I spoke in Parliament last week and actually outlined reforms that we are undertaking in relation to vacant housing stock. Despite being previously mocked by the Leader of the Opposition, who does not think that this is a worthwhile initiative, I actually came to Parliament and reported on the fact that we were reviewing Government Regional Officers' Housing that was vacant but surplus to government needs, and bringing that in to boost social housing stock. We know that any additions are critical to regional communities. Of course we think about the future; we are bringing in reforms to deliver apartment supply. We are not resting on our laurels. Yes, we have a booming economy. Yes, we have a booming construction sector. But we are looking through the housing diversity pipeline and through our tax reforms. There is a marked difference between our government and the opposition. The opposition has not offered any policy solutions on boosting housing supply; it has not. In fact, the opposition actively opposes apartment living and infill development. We saw at the last election that the opposition parties proposed policies that would oppose apartment living. We know this: we need apartments to provide people with housing choice. This government is driving reform in social housing, through taxation reform and with the diversity housing pipeline. We have a critical program that is boosting housing supply in Western Australia.