

SOCIAL HOUSING — HOUSING AUSTRALIA FUTURE FUND

637. Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE to the Minister for Housing

I would also like to acknowledge in the Speaker's gallery today the wonderful Bindjareb mob from the Harvey Aboriginal Corporation and thank them for all their cultural awareness of my region.

I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to deliver 4 000 additional social homes across Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister advise the house how this government is working with the federal Labor government to deliver thousands of additional affordable homes in Western Australia through the Housing Australia Future Fund?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house if he is aware of anyone who opposes this important investment in housing?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

I want to —

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

Mr J.N. CAREY: Yes, I might. I want to thank the member for her question.

- (1)–(2) As members may be aware, there is fantastic news from the federal Parliament that the Housing Australia Future Fund Bill has now passed through Parliament. What that means for all Australians is a very ambitious program with a clear fund. That \$10 billion fund will generate ongoing income for investment in social and affordable housing. Although it has a very bold target of 30 000 affordable and social homes, it guarantees that \$500 million each year will be invested in that housing and that states will be given an individual guarantee of 1 200 homes. I am really excited by this ambitious program that will match the work that we are undertaking with our \$2.6 billion program in social housing and homelessness to deliver 4 000 homes.

It took a bit to get there and I am pleased to see that finally the Greens came to the table, but it is sad to note that the Liberal and National Parties opposed this fund. In fact, the federal Liberal shadow Minister for Housing, Hon Michael Sukkar, said it is “utterly ridiculous”. I find that the Liberals and Nationals are isolated on housing and planning matters. In fact, industry stakeholders, community housing, social housing and everyone else who is deeply concerned about housing, has endorsed our program and the federal government. In fact, I note that the Community Housing Industry Association's chief executive officer said —

“If we look back over the last 10 years, there have not been any federal government programs of note,” ...

That is a brilliant description of the previous Liberal–National federal government. It took no action on housing. In fact, it finished and cut funding for housing in remote communities. As a result, our state government had to step in.

Of course, we see a similar picture at a state level. The Liberal and National Parties have no policies on housing or planning. As the Minister for Transport highlighted yesterday, the shadow Minister for Planning is focused on traffic in Cottesloe. The primary focus of members opposite is traffic in Cottesloe. Every state in Australia is facing incredible housing challenges. The national cabinet says that we must streamline planning approvals and processes, and that is what our state is doing. We are working on a second package of planning reforms to boost housing supply. What do we see from the Liberals and Nationals? They want more red tape by opposing significant pathways that will oppose major housing development, and their primary focus for their planning spokesperson is traffic in Cottesloe. If that is not a demonstration that that side is completely out of touch, that all they care about is traffic in Cottesloe, we face a very clear choice at the next election between a side that has not one policy on streamlining housing approvals versus this side that has a very clear record and an ambitious agenda to deliver housing for all Western Australians.