

SOCIAL HOUSING — STOCK

259. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Housing:

I have a supplementary question. Minister, the stock has gone backwards. Given that we have seen the priority waitlist grow by an astounding 144 per cent under this government —

The SPEAKER: Sorry, member. This is an opportunity for a direct, brief question, not any statements from you.

Ms L. METTAM: When will you take your job seriously?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

The member for Vasse should be better than that comment because I can tell her that my stakeholders overwhelmingly understand that I take this seriously. For the member to suggest that I do not take this seriously is deeply saddening. That is why I get up every day and look at every opportunity we can to accelerate the delivery of social housing. My stakeholders know that. I understand that we face a very tough rental market. In fact, CoreLogic, which is very well versed in the real estate market, said that the market has been rocked by the pandemic. The pandemic changed everything. We all know that. We have people coming into our offices and we understand that. We take that responsibility very seriously. That is why we have seen a huge number of different initiatives being rolled out: our planning reform, our infrastructure reform, our homelessness reforms, buying the Murray Hotel, and creating the 100 social homes pilot program. There is a range of initiatives. We are using every lever we can. For the member to glibly suggest that does her no favours when she personally, and other members of the opposition, contact me on individual matters and my office and I go out of our way to respond and to be diligent because we understand that people are hurting in this current market.