

HOUSING — BUILD-TO-RENT— PIER STREET

**60. Mr S.A. MILLMAN to the Minister for Housing:**

I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to delivering more affordable housing to Western Australians.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how the delivery of more than 200 new apartments on Pier Street in Perth will create more affordable housing opportunities for more Western Australians?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how these homes will support people in need, including older women at risk of homelessness?

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

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for his question and his genuine commitment to helping to provide housing to the most vulnerable people in Western Australia.

As I have said repeatedly in this chamber, we face extraordinary times. It has been called the perfect storm whereby COVID has radically reshaped our housing markets and placed enormous pressure on our rental markets. I want to assure Western Australians that we take this issue very seriously and every day we are looking at and implementing a range of reforms to drive housing supply.

Housing supply is the answer to the rental market challenges. Of course, I have previously talked in this chamber about the huge number of both immediate, medium and long-term changes and reforms that we are driving. One of those is the signature announcement that we made today with the federal government. This was a big milestone development. The Premier and I joined the federal Minister for Housing and the Prime Minister to announce the funding of the largest affordable and social housing build-to-rent development in Western Australia. This will be a huge delivery and boost for the rental market. There will be 219 apartments with around half for affordable and social housing; of those, 66 apartments will be social and 44, or 20 per cent, will be affordable. This is critically important. They will be close to public transport, in the heart of the city, and provide critical housing to some of our most vulnerable Western Australians.

This model is different because the state will build the development and then hand over the keys to Housing Choices to run this high-density apartment block. That land is lazy land, or surplus land, and is part of our housing diversity pipeline, so it is all coming together. These types of projects are complex. They are the largest of their type. Locking in a housing provider takes time, but we are getting on with the job. This kind of project demonstrates the serious commitment by our state government and the federal government, which is in contrast to the previous Liberal state and federal governments. As we know, the previous Liberal federal government spent nothing. There were no housing funds, no social accelerator funds, and it completely cut funding to remote communities. We then had the state Liberal government which, basically, for years —

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I know the member gets agitated about housing. I understand that because she had no policies, and I know that is embarrassing.

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** We can see that the Leader of the Liberal Party is very sensitive about this topic because the Liberals' record was based on the massive stimulus package from Kevin Rudd. Now, after seven years, we have a Leader of the Liberal Party who stands here with not one policy solution. I might have given her a few years, but I would think that after seven years the Liberal leader would have something of substance to say.

Members opposite are very agitated.

Several members interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** They are very sensitive because they have no policy. They are asleep at the wheel. If we look at their Liberal candidates, we see that they are actually venomous against social housing delivery. We look forward to them joining the opposition team! Those wonderful Liberal candidates oppose homelessness and social housing. That is the new Liberal Party embracing social housing. There is a very clear difference between this side, which is delivering substantial policy measures to boost housing supply, and an opposition that after seven years has not one policy or answer to meet the challenges of our current housing market.