

AFFORDABLE HOUSING DESIGN COMPETITION

Statement by Minister for Housing

HON COL HOLT (South West — Minister for Housing) [2.11 pm]: I rise to advise the house of the results of the Housing Authority's inaugural [design]ability affordable housing design competition. The competition is a product of the Housing Authority's innovation program that encourages employees to initiate and develop grassroots ideas. The authority believes students are tomorrow's leading professionals, thinkers and innovators and that they will offer a unique perspective on housing design not constrained or limited by existing industry norms and conventions.

The competition ran from the end of semester 2, 2014 until the completion of semester 1, 2015, and was open to students from all Perth-based universities and other tertiary institutes. Competition entrants competed as part of an interdisciplinary team, collaborating with students from other universities on innovative and responsive designs. The interdisciplinary nature of the teams reflects the diverse and functional nature of the land and housing development industry. Students had the opportunity to compete for cash prizes and winners were announced at an industry and student event on 5 October.

It was fantastic to see the teams thinking about social, economic and environmental sustainability, with many taking a holistic approach to their affordable housing proposal. There was much diversity in the built-form materials, from shipping containers and modular construction, to concrete tilt-up panels and the re-use of materials from the buildings currently on site. A number of the submissions were considered to be commercially viable, which is an impressive outcome coming from tertiary students. The Housing Authority will be further reviewing the winning submissions and looking for opportunities to integrate some of the design concepts into future developments.

Congratulations to the winning team, named Genius Loci, made up of six students from the University of Western Australia and Curtin University. Second place went to Sonder Studios, a collaboration between four students from UWA and Notre Dame. Finally, there was a draw for third place, with Meld Collective and Team 23 each taking home \$2 500 to share. The winning designs were showcased at the recent National Housing Conference in Perth.