

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING — CONNECTED LIVING

Statement by Minister for Housing

HON COL HOLT (South West — Minister for Housing) [10.09 am]: Yesterday it was my pleasure to launch a game-changing initiative for the Housing Authority called Connected Living, which is about delivering affordable housing that is within the reach of more Western Australians. The initiative will deliver innovative medium and high-density housing in close proximity to existing train stations and areas of activity. This is the first time the Housing Authority has delivered a transport-aligned initiative of this scale—offering the private sector the opportunity to partner with the Liberal–National state government to deliver seven sites in key locations, including Armadale, Butler, East Perth, Gosnells, Midland, Perth and Wellard.

Connected Living’s vision is to help transform the housing market in Perth through the delivery of affordable developments near or in key transit precincts and activity centres. It fulfils a key action in the Liberal–National state government’s “Affordable Housing Strategy: Aiming Higher 2015–2020 Action Plan”. Connected Living is an example of how we are looking to maximise the use of the government’s major transport and infrastructure assets by ensuring the highest and best use of surrounding land for medium and higher density living and promotion of activity and vibrancy in these areas. Research released last year by the Committee for Perth tells us that commuters travelling 25 kilometres to work in the Perth CBD could potentially save \$14 097 a year by forgoing their car in favour of public transport.

The Housing Authority is offering the sites, which total more than 28 000 square metres of land worth approximately \$20 million, through an invitation for expressions of interest. We are encouraging the private sector to put forward proposals for these sites that respond to the Connected Living objectives of affordability, diversity, design quality and innovation. The initiative embraces the government’s housing and infill strategies with a focus on facilitating and supporting innovation in the delivery of high-quality, affordable, medium to high-density housing developments. It will deliver housing options not otherwise available in these local communities. The Connected Living initiative is another example of how the Housing Authority is providing those on low to moderate incomes with affordable and appropriate housing linked to transport and employment opportunities.