

HOUSING SUPPLY UNIT

1287. Hon STEVE MARTIN to the minister representing the Treasurer:

I refer to the housing supply unit, announced yesterday, and the Housing Industry Forecasting Group, which already publishes housing data and provides a forum for industry and key government agencies to discuss housing policy.

- (1) Can the minister explain the difference in purpose between the housing supply unit and the existing HIFG?
- (2) Could the HIFG not simply be asked to provide advice in relation to housing supply?
- (3) Why will the housing supply unit start work only from January?
- (4) How many times has the HIFG met this year, and what was the most recent meeting date?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) The Housing Industry Forecasting Group is a joint housing industry and government body that provides independent forecasts and commentary on the Western Australian housing sector. It does not develop housing policy. The housing supply unit will work across government and with industry on policies to boost housing supply and affordability, and to expand workforce capacity. It will also be seeking Western Australia's fair share of housing funding available from the commonwealth. It should be noted that the current chair of the HIFG, Michael McGowan, who is also the executive director of the Housing Industry Association, has publicly supported the creation of the housing supply unit.
- (3) The housing supply unit will be a new team in Treasury. The January 2024 start date reflects the time it will take to recruit staff and acquire the necessary office accommodation.
- (4) The HIFG met on 12 June 2023, with the next meeting scheduled for 21 November 2023.