

SOCIAL HOUSING — TENDERS

1488. Hon Steve Martin to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Will the Minister please advise how many tenders for the construction of new builds for social housing have been advertised on the website Tenders WA in the past financial year, for the following cities:
  - (a) Geraldton;
  - (b) Albany;
  - (c) Kalgoorlie;
  - (d) Bunbury;
  - (e) Perth;
  - (f) Fremantle;
  - (g) Port Hedland; and
  - (h) Rockingham?
- (2) How many tenders for the construction of new builds for social housing have been advertised on the website in the past financial year across the State?

**Hon Jackie Jarvis replied:**

The Department of Communities (Communities) delivers a large volume of works through Tenders WA such as new builds, maintenance, refurbishments and other works. To streamline procurement for social housing projects, Communities has established three state-wide builders' panels, which are listed on Tenders WA and pre-qualify companies to deliver the pipeline of state government works. Builders appointed to the panels are shortlisted for works depending on their capability, capacity, location and the type of works being delivered.

The Government's statewide panels respond to direct industry feedback calling to streamline and update builder procurement. This was also reflected within the Master Builders Association WA's 2022 reform package submission. The bulk of new builder contracts are now offered via panels following this reform.

The three builders' panels consist of:

State-wide Prefabricated Panel, which appointed eight building companies to construct the first tranche of Communities' modular build program;

State-wide Modular Builder Panel, which has appointed six building companies to design and construct modular residential housing throughout The State, including homes in regional areas; and,

State-wide Builders Panel, which has pre-approved nearly 100 small, medium and large building companies to deliver social housing and further accelerate social housing delivery.

It is important to note that the builders' panels are statewide and facilitate works across Western Australia. The panels comprise of both local builders and builders that may not be located in the region but have nominated to complete works there.

- (1)–(2) The number of tenders advertised on Tenders WA does not represent a direct correlation with the number of dwellings that have or will be built. Communities issues construction contracts via its established panels and through individual project tenders. Tenders are also used by Communities to procure and contract large scale projects, such as Common Ground, Short Stay and Crisis Accommodation, or where multiple dwellings sites and larger apartment complexes are proposed.

In addition to the tenders for panels and major projects, from 1 July 2022 to 22 June 2023, three tenders for the construction of new builds for social housing have been advertised on the Tenders WA website. These tenders were advertised for projects located in Albany (1) and Perth (2). Since the State-wide Modular Builder Panel was established in June 2022, and the State-wide Builders Panel December 2022, 73 contracts have been awarded, contributing to the rolling program that has already delivered 1,356 social dwellings and 1,100 more under contract or construction.

The statewide builder panels represent an effective housing reform within the State Government's record \$2.6 billion investment to deliver 4,000 homes across the forward estimates.