

SOCIAL HOUSING — SUPPLY

355. Mr K.J.J. MICHEL to the Minister for Housing:

I refer to this Labor government's record \$2.6 billion investment in social housing. Can the minister outline to the house how this investment is boosting housing supply across the state and improving access to affordable housing for vulnerable Western Australians?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

I thank the member for his question. I feel a bit naked standing right here.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: That is not a thought we will dwell on.

Mr J.N. CAREY: I am used to the barrier; it gave me some protection!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members!

Mr R.S. Love: I like your tie.

Mr J.N. CAREY: Thank you.

I put on record before that COVID has radically reshaped our state's and our nation's housing market. All states are facing incredible housing pressures. Our government is very cognisant of those pressures and we are doing everything we can. We take this role and responsibility to assist the most vulnerable people in need very seriously. We made announcements back in July 2021 about a record injection of funding of \$875 million. It is now a \$2.6 billion program over four years for housing and homelessness. We also announced that we would deliver 4 000 social homes into the system. Back in July 2021, I made a very public commitment in this chamber that within the first two years, remembering that we faced the tightest construction market in the state's history, we would deliver 1 300 homes. I am very proud to report to Parliament that we have delivered on that target by more than two; we have delivered 1 302 homes one month early.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Quiet, please. Order, member for Burns Beach!

Mr J.N. CAREY: That clearly demonstrates that our government is delivering and spending on that record investment. I want to remind members how we are doing it. We are investing in new timber frame programs, new modular programs, prefab programs, spot purchasing and new builder panels to speed up the delivery. We are also bringing in other reforms such as using lazy land to boost the overall housing supply; a new infrastructure fund for infill and workers' accommodation; tax reform around stamp duty concessions of 100 per cent; and build to rent. We have also brought in reforms to Keystart, planning reforms and have consolidated the development assessment panels and provided new pathways. We are getting major developments underway, including community housing programs, and, proudly, we are establishing our state's first remote communities fund to invest in Aboriginal remote communities. This is a massive amount of funding. I note the difference between our side and the opposition. In more than six years, we are yet to see from the opposition a concrete policy on social housing. There is a stark choice between our sides: no policy—a policy vacuum from the opposition—or a clear path of reforms and delivery of social housing in Western Australia.