

SOCIAL HOUSING — SPOT PURCHASES

1489. Hon Steve Martin to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the social housing spot purchase program, and I ask, will the Minister please provide the total number of spot purchases by financial year within the Pilbara from either July 2017 to date or, the beginning of the program to date?

Hon Jackie Jarvis replied:

The dedicated spot purchasing program began in 2021/22. Spot purchasing is just one part of the State Government's record \$2.6 billion investment in social housing and homelessness measures across WA, including delivering 4,000 social homes to the system. The State Government will continue to accelerate social housing delivery, including through initiatives such modular, pre-fabricated, and timber frame builds, expansion of the State-wide builder panels, and spot purchasing.

The Department of Communities is consistently assessing properties that may be suitable for spot purchase. Spot purchasing is not always appropriate in regions where there is a lack of suitable houses due to the age of stock, or maintenance requirements such as dwellings built with asbestos. The Pilbara region is one such region affected by a lack of suitable purchasable stock.

In the post-COVID context – responding to changing conditions and challenges faced in the construction market, including cost escalations for construction, the State Government made a proactive decision to formally fund a dedicated Spot Purchase Program. The below table reflects successful delivery of social housing following the establishment of this Program.

Region	Financial Year	Spot Purchase Program Completions
Pilbara	2021–22	16
	2022–23	18