

BUILDERS' ACCOMMODATION — HUMANIHUTS

288. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the ongoing housing and land release issues across Western Australia and note that this issue covers multiple portfolios, including commerce, emergency services, jobs and trade, lands, planning and regional development.

- (1) What is the government doing to ensure that builders who come to Western Australia from overseas have somewhere to live?
- (2) Has the state government purchased humanihuts, such as those being provided by Rio Tinto in the Kimberley; and, if yes, how many have been purchased and at what cost?
- (3) If no to (2), given that humanihuts have a 20-year life span, why has the government chosen to not purchase these huts for deployment across regional and remote areas to provide temporary accommodation for builders?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1)–(3) There are over 32 000 job vacancies across the state in many different industries, at all levels of expertise. To fill these vacancies, we know that we need more people to call Western Australia home. More than 30 000 homes were built in WA between July 2020 and September 2022, with a record 27 500 new homes currently under construction.

Labour shortages remain a key issue for the construction industry, highlighting the need for the recruitment of more workers. The attraction of workers from interstate and overseas is key in addressing housing supply needs and residential construction time frames, complementing our existing investment in training local workers.

The McGowan government is investing a record \$2.4 billion in housing and homelessness services, with unlocking affordable housing opportunities across WA a key priority. We have implemented a range of initiatives to increase housing supply, including alternative construction methods to accelerate delivery; unlocking additional land through to encourage new developments; land tax and stamp duty concessions to support new builds; an \$80 million infrastructure development fund to kickstart developments; and planning reforms to deliver more housing choices for the community.

We will continue to do everything we can to increase housing accessibility, despite constant opposition by the Liberal and National Parties.