

SOCIAL HOUSING — REGIONS

1289. Hon Steve Martin to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the total number of Government social housing properties, and I ask:

- (a) to date, how many social housing properties are there in the following towns:
 - (i) Leonora;
 - (ii) Carnarvon;
 - (iii) Kununurra;
 - (iv) Port Hedland; and
 - (v) Laverton; and
- (b) do the towns in (a) to (e), how many social housing properties were there on 30 June 2017?

Hon Jackie Jarvis replied:

- (a)–(b) The State Government has added 1,182 public housing properties across the State since 1 July 2021 and more than 1,200 social housing dwellings are currently under contract or construction. Across these regions, there are 18 properties under contract or construction.

Since coming into Government, the Department has had to make difficult decisions on social housing that was no longer meeting the needs of the community and public housing tenants. These decisions were necessary for the future planning and development of public housing across Western Australian suburbs. In a heated construction market, the State Government is accelerating social housing delivery through a diversity of reforms including the modular build, timber frame, and spot purchasing programs.

The Department of Communities maintains a large asset base of public housing properties and manages it to best meet the needs of the community and ensure that properties are in safe, clean, and working order for tenants.

Social housing stock fluctuates across specific regions due to a range of factors. Across the regions mentioned, social housing stock has been subject to properties that have been demolished due to reaching the end of their useful life and were considered in poor condition and uneconomical to be refurbished, many of which contained asbestos and were structurally damaged. Other properties have been subject to critical fire damage.

As at 28 February, the total housing stock in the Shire of Leonora was 44.

As at 28 February, the total housing stock in the Shire of Carnarvon was 346.

As at 28 February, the total housing stock in the Shire of Wyndham–East Kimberley was 491.

As at 28 February, the total housing stock in the Town of Port Hedland was 655.

As at 28 February, the total housing stock in the Shire of Laverton was 25.

Due to a change in reporting systems within the Department of Communities, data captures from 2017 and earlier are not available and would require a manual review of individual files. Communities reports public housing data by Local Government Area (LGA).